

TENNESSEE

RANK 14, SCORE 20/33



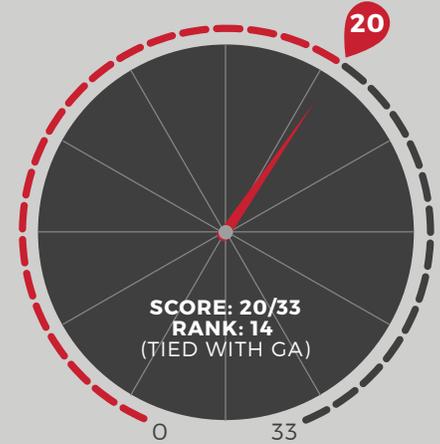
STATE WITH SOME CHARTERS (25-99)
99 CHARTER SCHOOLS
 BELOW AVERAGE % OF PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (0-4%)



DISTRICT AUTHORIZING STATE
5 AUTHORIZERS
77% OF SCHOOLS AUTHORIZED BY LEAS



YEAR LAW ESTABLISHED: **2002**



YEARLY COMPARISON

	1. Who Authorizes (6 points)	2. Standards (3 points)	3. Evaluations (3 points)	4. Sanctions (3 points)	5. Reports (3 points)	6. PMR (3 points)	7. Renewals (6 points)	8. Default Closure (6 points)	Total (33 points)
2016	2	3	0	0	3	0	6	6	20/33
2015	2	3	0	0	3	0	6	6	20/33

MORE AUTHORIZERS AT WORK HIGHLIGHTS NEEDS

The Tennessee State Board of Education has approved its first charter schools. Strong performance management policies will help ensure consistency across this expanded authorizer landscape—an effort that will be aided by the expansion of authorizer operational funding to all authorizers.

NACSA RECOMMENDS

- **Require all authorizers to use nationally recognized professional standards for charter school authorizing.** Tennessee law requires the State Board of Education to follow nationally recognized best practices in charter school authorizing and recommends that other authorizers in the state do so as well. Metro Nashville Public Schools adopted a set of authorizing policies in 2015 that are contrary to nationally recognized best practices. Given this, NACSA recommends that Tennessee law be further strengthened to require all authorizers to follow nationally recognized best practices in charter school authorizing as promulgated by the State Board.
- **Extend State Board of Education appellate authorizing jurisdiction to the entire state.** Provide all charter school applicants with the right to be authorized by the State Board upon appeal, regardless of their jurisdiction.
- **Require all authorizers to use performance contracts, performance frameworks, and policies that encourage the replication of high-quality charter schools.** These practices are currently being used by several authorizers in the state and should be codified as requirements for all authorizers. Tennessee is one of only six states that do not require a charter contract that is distinct from the charter application.
- **Create mechanisms for the oversight of authorizers, including authorizer evaluations.** Historically, the quality of Tennessee authorizers has been mixed. In the last two years, several initiatives have been passed to improve authorizer quality and enhance charter school accountability, but concerns about inconsistent authorizer quality

remain. Basic authorizer transparency mechanisms, such as disclosure of various charter school oversight expenses and allowing for as-needed evaluations of authorizers, would encourage quality authorizing and help foster public trust of the authorizing community. This would also help needed campaigns for authorizer operational funding, which the state currently lacks.

THE SCORE

POLICY	POINTS	DETAILS & CONTEXT
AUTHORIZER QUALITY		
Who Authorizes	2/6	LEAs, Achievement School District (ASD), a statewide recovery school district with limited jurisdiction that acts like an Independent Charter Board; SEA on appeal with limited jurisdiction. The State Board of Education (SBE) may authorize charter schools on appeal from school districts with one or more schools ranked in the bottom 5% of all schools in the state. Charter schools from other districts may still appeal to the SBE; if the SBE overturns the LEA's decision, the charter school is returned to the LEA for authorization. The ASD is limited to certain new school and conversion efforts in specific school catchment zones where existing schools demonstrate failing performance.
Authorizer Standards	3/3	State law requires the use of nationally recognized authorizer standards by the SBE and recommends their use by all authorizers.
Authorizer Evaluations	0/3	State law does not require or provide for the evaluation of authorizers based on standards for quality authorizing.
Authorizer Sanctions	0/3	State law does not provide for authorizer sanctions that restrict the granting of new charters by the authorizer, remove schools from the authorizer's portfolio, or remove authorizing authority.
SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY		
Reports on Performance	3/3	State statute requires each charter school to report its progress towards achieving the goals in its charter. The report template and related rules issued by the Department of Education result in a state policy that produces an annual consolidated report on the performance of schools in each authorizer's portfolio.
Performance Management and Replication	0/3	State law requires no charter contract, performance frameworks, or replication policy. In practice, several of the authorizers in the state use performance frameworks and have policies to encourage the replication of high-performing charter schools.
Renewal Standard	6/6	State law calls for the non-renewal of "priority schools" (the state's lowest-performing schools), and renewal decisions must be based on a charter school's annual progress report. The next priority list is expected to be released in 2017.
Default Closure	6/6	State law calls for the default closure of priority charter schools. Implementation had been delayed due to transitions in the state's accountability system. The next priority list is expected to be released in 2017.

TOTAL POINTS: 20/33, RANK 14 (TIED WITH GA)