

Charter School 2025 Legislative Updates

The following public chapters directly name and/or impact charter schools.

1. Public Chapter [103](#)
 - Requires each LEA and public charter school governing body to adopt and implement a wireless communication device policy that prohibits student use of a wireless communication device during instructional time, subject to certain exceptions.
2. Public Chapter [165](#)
 - Requires at least one full-time employee at each school under the jurisdiction of an LEA or public charter school to annually receive training in seizure safety and first aid.
3. Public Chapter [219](#)
 - Prohibits the department of education from excluding from the calculation of a school letter grade (i) the data of any group of students within a school if the department collects, aggregates, and reports the data, and if the group of students has at least 20 valid test scores in math or English language arts for at least one grade band and (ii) data for the college and career readiness indicator if the school has at least 20 students in a graduating cohort.
4. Public Chapter [270](#)
 - Prohibits a local board of education or public charter school governing body from removing material from a library collection for the sole reason that the material is religious.
5. Public Chapter [275](#)
 - Authorizes the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission to promulgate rules that would allow an existing public charter school to replicate that public charter school in the same district.
 - Also allows, in certain circumstances, a public charter school sponsor to apply directly to the Commission to open a new public charter school.
 - Makes various changes to the state agencies responsible for performing certain functions in the Tennessee Public Charter Schools Act of 2002.
6. Public Chapter [276](#)
 - Allows a licensed childcare agency, as defined in T.C.A. § 71-3-501, or a public charter school to lease or purchase underutilized property or vacant property, as defined in T.C.A. § 49-13-104, from LEAs.
7. Public Chapter [296](#)
 - Increases the maximum number of consecutive days a substitute teacher may substitute for a regular teacher on leave without having to possess a teaching license from 20 to 30.
 - Requires local boards and public charter school governing bodies to adopt a policy regarding eligible employees' use of paid parental leave pursuant to certain restrictions.
8. Public Chapter [306](#)
 - Increases the minimum amount of physical activity required for students and establishes additional requirements regarding types of physical activity.
 - For Elementary: 40 minutes per school day
 - For Middle and High: 90 minutes per school week

- For more information on physical activity requirements, see the department's [Physical Activity Requirements Guidance](#).

9. Public Chapter [314](#)

- Makes various changes to the approval and notice requirements for nonsectarian, nonreligious Bible courses.
- Clarifies that public charter schools are authorized to provide nonsectarian, nonreligious Bible courses in the same manner as local education agencies and further clarifies that a course for an academic study of the Bible that was approved by the department of education before July 1, 2025, is not required to be approved by the local board of education or the public charter school governing body.

10. Public Chapter [315](#)

- Changes present law concerning the frequency of fire drills in educational occupancies.
 - Requires full evacuation fire drills in educational occupancies where such occupancies constitute the major occupancy of a building to be conducted no more than once every 30 school days.
 - Requires that two fire drills requiring full evacuation in such educational occupancies, and no more than two such fire drills, be conducted during the first 30 full school days of the school year.

11. Public Chapter [328](#)

- Makes various changes to certain teacher licensure requirements, including emergency credentials criteria and creates a new limited occupational license.

12. Public Chapter [330](#)

- Requires each local board of education and public charter school governing body to develop and implement a policy to provide, on or with the report card of a kindergarten through eighth grade (K-8) student, the student's most recent score on the universal reading screener and the results of the most recently administered dyslexia screener pursuant to the Tennessee Literacy Success Act, if applicable.

13. Public Chapter [346](#)

- Authorizes a healthcare practitioner to prescribe and a pharmacist to dispense a prescribed bronchodilator rescue inhaler to an authorized entity for the purpose of administering to a person believed to be experiencing asthma symptoms or emergent respiratory distress.
- Encourages LEAs and public charter schools to keep bronchodilator rescue inhalers in a minimum of two locations to be administered to students believed to be having asthma symptoms or in emergent respiratory distress.

14. Public Chapter [376](#)

- Expands the state board of education's power to subpoena the appearance of persons or the production of items the chair of the state board, or designee, considers material or relevant to an accountability hearing for a LEA operating a public school, or a public charter school, receiving a "D" or "F" letter grade.

15. Public Chapter [385](#)

Requires LEAs and public charter schools that administer a state board of education approved universal reading screener in pre-K, to allow the pre-k teacher whose students were administered the universal reading screener to use either the results of the screener as an approved alternative

student growth model or the pre-k/kindergarten portfolio growth model to generate the teacher's individual growth score.

16. Public Chapter [388](#)

- Prohibits a county LEA or public charter school that is authorized to operate in a county LEA, from charging certain fees or tuition and classifying a student as “out- of-district” if the student (i) resides in the same county and (ii) transfers to a public charter school authorized to operate in the county LEA from another LEA located in the same county.

17. Public Chapter [456](#)

- Requires the state share of the TISA formula funds generated by student members of a public charter school to be disbursed directly to the public charter school unless the public charter school is authorized under the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission or by the Achievement School District.
- Revises the provision requiring the TISA guide to explain how a public charter school may dispute an alleged error in an allocation to its authorizer.
- Increases the frequency in which an LEA is required to adjust local payments to public charter schools based on changes in revenue, student membership, or student services.

18. Public Chapter [464](#)

- Establishes a progressive tiered intervention system for priority schools and sunsets the Achievement School District starting in the 2026-27 school year.

19. Public Chapter [476](#)

- Prohibits LEAs and public charter schools from purchasing, selling, or providing food or beverage items that contain Allura Red AC, also known as Red 40, beginning August 1, 2027.

20. Public Chapter [484](#)

- Authorizes LEAs and public charter schools, subject to director of schools’ or director of public charter schools’ discretion, to provide up to four days of the required 180 days of classroom instruction via hybrid learning in the event of dangerous or extreme weather conditions, or an emergency.

21. Public Chapter [518](#)

- Allows public charter schools to operate outside the geographic boundaries of the local education agency in which the public charter school is authorized to locate in its charter agreement in certain circumstances and under certain conditions.