



# State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC)

## April 2014 Newsletter Addendum

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### SCSC Meetings

The State Charter Schools Commission last met on March 26, 2014. For the meeting minutes, click [here](#). The next Commission meeting is on Wednesday, April 30, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) Board Room. The 2014 Commission meeting calendar is available [here](#).

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### Training Opportunities

**Please note upcoming RSVP deadlines for training opportunities.** To request reimbursement for expenses incurred while attending the TKES and/or LKES training sessions, please email [lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov](mailto:lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov).

#### "How to be an LEA"

*Atlanta Airport Marriott Gateway, Atlanta, Georgia*

*May 8-9, 2014*

The "How to be a Local Education Agency" training session is for **state charter leaders and relevant personnel**. In addition to operating as independent schools, state charters also serve as independent local education agencies (LEAs). Throughout this two-day training session, state officials will speak on key federal and state programs to assist state charters in their responsibilities as LEAs. Topics will include: Federal Title Programs; State and Federal Funding; the College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI); Data Access, Usage and Collection; School Safety and Facilities; among others. The full agenda is available [here](#). The SCSC will reimburse travel expenses for attendees in accordance with state guidelines. Attendees who require overnight accommodations must reserve a room by April 17 to secure the group rate of \$133 per night. The reservation website is available [here](#).

**To attend this training session, RSVP to [lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov](mailto:lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov).**

#### Strategic Planning Sessions

*Carl Vinson Institute of Government and Georgia Charter Schools Association*

*Summer 2014*

**RSVP Deadline – May 1, 2014**

The SCSC will offer two strategic planning opportunities to state charter school boards and staffs in the summer of 2014 to assist schools in preparations for the 2014-15 school year. Through this opportunity, experts from the Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG) and the Georgia Charter Schools Association (GCSA) will work directly with the state charter school to conduct an in-depth analysis of the school's needs. The CVIOG experts will help the school develop an executable strategic plan. The GCSA experts will focus on financial controls and budget review. A full overview of the opportunity is available [here](#). The cost of the services will be fully covered by the SCSC. **State charters that wish to opt into one or both opportunities should contact Lauren Holcomb at [lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov](mailto:lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov) or (404) 656-2822 by May 1, 2014.**

A comprehensive list of 2013-2014 SCSC training opportunities is available [here](#). Please note this is a draft list to assist schools in planning and dates/topics are subject to change. For questions about training opportunities, please contact Lauren Holcomb, SCSC Director of Organizational and Resource Development, at [lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov](mailto:lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov) or (404) 656-2822.

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## 2014 SCSC Petition Cycle – Upcoming Deadline

**Please note the deadline for the 2014 SCSC petition cycle is 4:00 p.m. on May 15, 2014.** The petition application for the State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC) 2014 Petition Review Cycle is available on the SCSC website under the [Information for Petitioners](#) tab. For the 2014 Petition Review Cycle, new start-up charter schools must plan to open in the 2015-2016 school year or later.

As a reminder, in most instances petitioners must also submit the petition to the local board of education in which the school will be located in accordance with the local procedures and deadlines. Local school districts deadlines vary throughout the state. It is incumbent on the charter petitioner to identify the appropriate deadlines. More information about the requirements for submitting a petition to the SCSC and local board of education is on the SCSC website under the [Petition Application](#) tab. Additionally, schools that designate a defined attendance zone (other than statewide) must also have submitted a letter of intent to the local school district and the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) prior to the applicable deadlines.

**Completed petitions must be received by the SCSC by 4:00 PM on May 15, 2014.** The SCSC intends to act to approve or deny petitions at its meeting on September 24, 2014.

You may learn about the SCSC's petition review process by reviewing [SCSC Rule 691-2-.02 State Charter School Petitions](#). Presentation materials from the SCSC's Petitioner Boot Camp are also available for review on the SCSC website under the [Information for Petitioners](#) tab. To better understand SCSC expectations and how a state charter school operates, you may also wish to review the Petition Evaluation Guide available on the SCSC website under the [Petition Evaluation](#) tab and state charter school guidance under the [Guidance](#) tab.

**For questions regarding the SCSC petition review process, please contact Gregg Stevens at [gregg.stevens@scsc.georgia.gov](mailto:gregg.stevens@scsc.georgia.gov).**

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## CCRPI Release

The GaDOE released the final 2012 and 2013 College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) reports on April 21, 2014. The CCRPI score is the state's new accountability index that replaces the old Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) score that was used under No Child Left Behind. The 2013 CCRPI score is based on the 2012-2013 school year results and includes new business rules. These new rules establish a much higher standard for schools, and likely result in lower CCRPI scores than the original 2012 results. Additionally, the GaDOE released a **new 2012 score based on 2011-2012 school year results that were run with the 2013 business rules**. Comparisons between 2012 and 2013 results will only be valid using the newly calculated results.

For a one-page summary and a more detailed summary of all changes to the CCRPI, please click [here](#).

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## National Association of Charter School Authorizers Assessment

The SCSC is working with the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) to assess our authorizing practices and to help us carry out those practices more effectively. **On or around April 25, 2014, each state charter school will receive an e-mail from NACSA containing a link to an online Charter School Leadership Survey.** We encourage you to complete this survey as it will be a valuable tool for NACSA as they evaluate the SCSC, but your participation is voluntary. If you choose to participate, please know that all survey responses will be submitted directly to NACSA (not to the SCSC), and all respondents will remain anonymous. We ask that you complete the survey in a timely manner according to the deadlines NACSA identifies.

NACSA will also be visiting the SCSC offices on May 28, 2014 in order to attend the May SCSC Meeting and to meet with various SCSC stakeholders, including Commissioners and representatives from state charter schools. **All state charter schools are invited to identify 1-2 leaders (governing board members, principals, executive directors, etc.) to participate in the interview with NACSA on May 28<sup>th</sup>.** Participation is voluntary. A member of the SCSC staff will reach out to to schedule the group interview opportunity with those who are interested in meeting with the NACSA evaluators during their site visit.

For questions, please contact Bonnie Holliday, Ph.D., SCSC Executive Director at (404) 656-2837 or [bonnie.holliday@scsc.georgia.gov](mailto:bonnie.holliday@scsc.georgia.gov).

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## Funding and Professional Development Opportunities

SCSC staff have identified the following grant and professional development opportunities that may be of benefit to state charters. A full list of SCSC-identified grant opportunities is available [here](#).

### **Georgia Race to the Top Grant – Summer Academy and Student Learning Objectives Georgia Department of Education**

In January the State Board of Education approved two grants for local school districts. The Math and ELA training grants is to pay for teachers to attend the mathematics and ELA summer institutes. The Curriculum Division has sent registration information about the grants to all districts. The SLO (Student Learning Objectives) grant is to support districts with developing SLOs.

The grant size recommended for each school is available [here](#). Each district must complete a budget in the LEA Consolidated Application **by May 1, 2014** in order to access funds.

GaDOE held a conference call **exclusively for state charters** on Wednesday, April 16, 24, 2014 to provide an overview of the grants and to address questions. For notes from the conference call, please click [here](#).

### **Frequent Asked Questions:**

**Question: Are the grants just for the 26 Race to the Top districts?**

Response: No, the grants are for all districts.

**Question: Will districts have to apply for the grants?**

Response: No, the grants are based on a formula and all districts received a grant.

**Question: How do I access the grants?**

Response: The grants are available through the Consolidated Application. All districts have access to the Consolidated Application and these two grants will be accessed the same way your Title I grants are accessed.

**Question: How can the funds be used?**

Response: The attached presentation provides a detailed list of how grant funds can be used for both grants.

**Question: Can the grant funds be used to pay for SLO activities that happened in February and March?**

Response: Yes, districts may use the funds to pay for activities that occurred on or after January 16, 2014. The confusion may be due to an error in the original slide presentation notes. I have attached an updated copy of the slide presentation to clarify when grant funds can be used to pay for activities. The language was changed on slides 3 and 7. The language now reads, "Expenses may be charged back to January 16, 2014. However, before funds are drawn from GAORS, RESAs and LEAs must have an approved budget."

Contact: Clara J. Keith, Associate Superintendent for Race to the Top Implementation at [ckeith@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:ckeith@doe.k12.ga.us).

**Parent Engagement Program News  
Georgia Department of Education**

The GaDOE's Parent Engagement Program is now on Twitter, Facebook, and has launched a Georgia Parent Involvement Coordinator (PIC) Network Blog. These pages were created to help parents by enabling faster and more effective communication, providing a forum for discussion, and supplying up to date and effective resources and ideas. Access information is below.

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/GaDOEParentEngagement](http://www.facebook.com/GaDOEParentEngagement)

Twitter: [@GaDOEParents](https://twitter.com/GaDOEParents)

Blog: [www.gadoeparentengagement.edublogs.org](http://www.gadoeparentengagement.edublogs.org)

Contact: Michelle Sandrock, GaDOE Parent Engagement Program Manager, (404) 232 – 1148 or [msandrock@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:msandrock@doe.k12.ga.us)

**12<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Title Programs Conference  
Georgia Department of Education**

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Title Programs Conference will be held June 17-20, 2014, in Atlanta, Georgia at the Marriott Atlanta Airport Gateway located at 2020 Convention Center Concourse, Atlanta, GA 30337 (800) 228-9290. The Spring Hill Suites adjacent to the property will be the conference's overflow hotel. **More information on hotel registration will be sent out in early March 2014.**

The schedule for the 2014 conference is different than previous years. The Homeless Liaisons and/or Title I Directors that serve as their district's liaison should plan to attend the Homeless Liaison Workshop portion of the conference which will take place on Tuesday, June 17, 2014, for the entire day. Beginning on Wednesday, June 18, 2014, the conference will have a half-day training for the New Title I Directors Workshop in the morning, and in the afternoon, GaDOE will begin the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Title Programs Conference. On Thursday morning June 19, 2014, right after the continental breakfast, GaDOE will present the awards to the Title I Reward Districts followed by breakout sessions. On Friday, June 20, 2014, breakout sessions and the conference will end at noon. In addition, Title III, Part A— Language Instruction for LEP and Immigrant Coordinator Programs will be providing several sessions at the conference that are normally presented to districts in the fall by Title III.

This year will be focus primarily on federal programs compliance and technical assistance. A suggestion from districts was not to schedule the Meet Your Title I Education Program Specialist session at the end of the day. GaDOE will schedule these Specialist sessions for each district during the regular conference presentation time.

Contact: Margo DeLaune, GaDOE Title Programs Director, (404) 657-1796 or [mdelaune@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mdelaune@doe.k12.ga.us)

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