



# State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC)

## December 2014 Newsletter

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### SCSC Meetings

The November State Charter Schools Commission was held on November 19, 2014. The meeting minutes are available [here](#). The next Commission meeting is on Wednesday, January 28, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the State Charter Schools Commission Conference Room. The 2015 Commission meeting calendar will be available on the SCSC website at the end of the month.

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### Training Opportunities

The [2014-2015 SCSC Training Agenda](#) is available on the [Training Opportunities](#) page of the SCSC website. This draft list is intended to assist schools in planning and dates/topics are subject to change. Presentations and materials from SCSC trainings are available on the [Training Presentations and Materials](#) page of the SCSC website.

Please RSVP to [lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov](mailto:lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov) if you wish to attend a training session.

### Petitioner Boot Camp

**January 27, 2015**

**Marriott Macon City Center, Macon, Georgia**

**Invited: Potential SCSC Petitioners**

This training session is for those who plan to submit a charter petition to the SCSC or want to learn more about chartering. Attendees will learn what makes a successful charter petition, common mistakes and misconceptions, and hear directly from successful state charter petitioners.

### School Governance - Mandatory

**February 5-6, 2015**

**Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Georgia**

**Invited: Governing Board Members and Administrators**

State charter school board members and administrators are required by law to attend the SCSC School Governance Training. Topics will include the roles and responsibilities of school board members and administrators, ethics, school funding and budgets, audit requirements, strategic planning and succession planning, among others. The SCSC will reimburse travel expenses in accordance with state guidelines.

## [Charter Schools Financial Management Certification Program](#)

### **Introductory Accounting**

**February 25-27, 2014**

**Atlanta, Georgia**

**Invited: School Business Managers and Administrators**

The SCSC will offer a full scholarship to state charter business managers and/or administrators who wish to enroll in the Carl Vinson Institute of Government's Charter Schools Financial Management Certification Program. Courses must be completed within a three-year period. The Introductory Accounting course will introduce participants to basic accounting concepts for governmental funds. Topics covered include – accounting equation, chart of accounts, double entry accounting, accounting systems and records, fund accounting, basis of accounting, payroll and benefit accounting, and case study. Visit the SCSC website to see the full [program overview](#).

*To attend a training session or for more information, 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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## [Reporting Deadlines](#)

The following reporting items are due in December and January:

- **Second Semester SLO Submissions**
- **Data Collections:** Student Record- Data Cleanse, Special Education Transition Planning

The [FY15 Reporting Calendar](#) is available on the SCSC website. For help accessing the GaDOE portal and with any application functionality issues, please contact the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) Information Systems Customer Support Center at 1-800-869-1011 or [dticket@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:dticket@doe.k12.ga.us).

*Please direct questions about reporting items to Terence Washington, SCSC Finance and Operational Accountability Manager, at [terence.washington@scsc.georgia.gov](mailto:terence.washington@scsc.georgia.gov) or (404) 656-2837.*

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## [Federal Grant Asset Redistribution Opportunity](#)

The SCSC on behalf of the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) must redistribute assets purchased by Scholars Academy Charter School using federal Charter School Program (CSP) grant funding following the school's closure at the conclusion of the 2014 Fiscal Year. Charter schools that are operating in Georgia in the 2014-2015 school year or have a charter approved by the State Board of Education to operate in the 2015-2016 school year by the application deadline may apply to receive, at no cost, furniture and equipment previously used by Scholars Academy Charter School. The application and equipment inventory is available on the SCSC website under the Grant Opportunities and Resources tab [here](#). The deadline to submit applications is January 31, 2015.

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## [2014 CCRPI Reports](#)

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) has released the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI), based on data from the 2013-2014 school year. The CCRPI is Georgia's statewide accountability system, implemented in

2012 to replace the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) measurement, after the U.S. Department of Education granted Georgia's waiver from NCLB. It measures schools and school districts on a 100-point scale, helping parents and the public better understand how schools are performing in a more comprehensive manner than the pass/fail system previously in place under AYP.

Reports are available using the links below.

#### **2014 CCRPI Reports**

<http://ccrpi.gadoe.org/2014/ccrpi2014.aspx>

#### **2013 CCRPI Reports**

<http://ccrpi.gadoe.org/2013/ccrpi2013.aspx>

#### **2012 CCRPI Reports**

<http://ccrpi.gadoe.org/2012/ccrpi2012.aspx>

[2014 CCRPI Scoring by Component](#)

[2014 CCRPI Indicator Score](#)

[2014 CCRPI Content Mastery by Subgroup](#)

[4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate](#)

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## **Charter Accountability: Georgia Milestones Assessment**

At the November 2014 SCSC meeting, commissioners agreed that staff should issue an administrative clarification to amend all existing charter contracts by replacing any references to CRCT or EOCT with references to Georgia Milestone Assessments (GMA). In other words, because all material aspects of state charter school contracts remain valid, the SCSC will issue an administrative clarification for each school that clarifies the change in the name of the state assessments. The 2014-15 Georgia Milestones results will count for charter school accountability.

The administration of the GMA will not detrimentally impact state charter school accountability because the SCSC does not set specific performance thresholds for the schools it authorizes. Rather, state charter school contracts simply require SCSC authorized schools to outperform the traditional school districts located within their respective attendance zones. Because state charter school performance on state standardized assessments is always examined relative to the performance of other schools within their attendance zone (rather than by 'absolute bar' performance metrics), the existing charter contract goals account for any performance dips (or spikes) *caused by the assessment*.

Additionally, the SCSC also conducts a value-add analysis which examines the performance of state charter schools while controlling for their unique student characteristics. Because the value-add analysis uses a statewide data set, it allows the SCSC to fairly compare state charter schools to the district(s) they serve by controlling for key demographics and indicators. In other words, the value-add analysis tells us how the school's *predicted* performance compares to its *actual* performance (given its unique student population) relative to the district(s) it serves. This type of analysis is stable regardless of any potential performance fluctuations that result from the administration of a new state assessment.

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## [Proposed English Language Arts and Mathematics Standards](#)

The Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS) in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics have been revised based on a formal review and evaluation process as directed by an Executive Order from the Governor. The review and evaluation process included several survey opportunities as well as legislative and Georgia State Board of Education listening sessions. Survey feedback was collected and analyzed by the University System of Georgia. The University System of Georgia provided survey results and recommendations for revisions to the standards to the State Board of Education on September 24, 2014.

A Working Committee representing K-12 Georgia public school teachers, post-secondary staff, parents, and instructional leaders from across the state made revisions to the standards based on public feedback and recommendations from survey results for standards with less than 90% approval. ELA and Mathematics Advisory Committees then reviewed the recommended changes made by the Working Committees and provided additional suggestions for clarity and change based on feedback and survey recommendations. Business and Industry partners that include the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education, Georgia Public Broadcasting, and Georgia Power have been involved in the review and evaluation process. An Academic Review Committee consisting of representatives from the writing and advisory committees; the Governor's Office of Student Achievement; and the Georgia Department of Education leadership staff reviewed and finalized the draft revised standards for presentation to the State Board of Education for permission to post for 60 days of public review and comment.

The survey will be posted for 60 days of public review and comment from **November 12, 2014, through January 10, 2015**. The draft revised standards and public feedback will be presented to the Georgia State Board of Education on January 15, 2015, for approval.

Use the following link for access to the revised ELA and Mathematics Standards and surveys for feedback. Please forward this information to your teachers, administrators, and stakeholders.

<https://www.georgiastandards.org/Common-Core/Pages/Proposed-English-Language-Arts-and-Mathematics-Standards-Kindergarten-through-High-School.aspx>

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## [Student Learning Objectives](#)

The GaDOE has released the revised [Student Learning Objective \(SLO\) Attainment Rubric](#). This rubric reflects revisions in the Level II, Level III, and Level IV categories. The SLO rubric will be utilized to determine student growth in non-tested subjects during **SY 2014-2015**. Recommendations from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the Student Learning Objective Advisory Committee, as well as additional SLO data information were taken into consideration during the revision process.

Additionally, GaDOE will offer a SLO State Trainer Credentialing opportunity for interested Georgia educators. This will be the fifth cohort organized this year. To become a state credentialed trainer, participants must attend all three days of training, conduct supervised SLO trainings and successfully complete the SLO credentialing assessment. Participants will receive in depth training focused on the SLO process. GaDOE trainers will address setting realistic growth targets, developing SLO statements, as well as developing or selecting sound assessments used to measure student growth and evaluate teachers.

The 3 day training will be conducted at GaDOE on January 21-23, 2015. The sessions will be held from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM daily. Travel and per diem meal costs will be reimbursed.

If you are interested in participating, please register no later January 9, 2015. Selected participants will be notified the week of January 12. You may complete the registration process at the following link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SQFMTH2LiPaKiAY1GRCz\\_PmPBxthAwVr9-wQGuD3uM/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SQFMTH2LiPaKiAY1GRCz_PmPBxthAwVr9-wQGuD3uM/viewform)

Please direct questions to Michele Purvis, GaDOE teacher and Leader Effectiveness Program Manager, at 404-232-1537 or [mpurvis@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mpurvis@doe.k12.ga.us).

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## **Increasing Access to Advanced Placement Courses**

The GaDOE is encouraging schools to increase access to Advanced Placement (AP) courses and exams. The AP program enables students to take college-level courses and exams and earn college credit while still in high school. Georgia is ranked 12<sup>th</sup> nationwide for the largest percentage of high school graduates succeeding on at least one AP exam during high school.

School leaders may identify students with *AP Potential*, i.e., students who show potential to succeed in AP course work, by utilizing results from the fall 2014 PSAT exam. Research studies by The College Board indicate that PSAT scores are strong predictors of students' AP exam scores when used in conjunction with high school grades and previous course work in the same discipline. PSAT scores can provide reliable guidance in identifying additional students who may be ready for the rigor of AP. Data shows that over 20,000 Georgia students with *AP Potential* are not being served in AP courses.

Learn more about *AP Potential*, by visiting: <http://media.collegeboard.com/digitalServices/pdf/ap/ap-potential-brochure-for-schools-and-districts.pdf>. School staff(s) may log into active school level *AP Potential* data at: <https://appotential.collegeboard.org>. First-time users will be asked to create an educator's professional account and enter their *AP Potential* access code. Access codes appear on the PSAT Roster of Scores mailed to high school principals in December. The use of *AP Potential* will enable school staffs analyze 2014 PSAT data, recognize students with potential for success in AP courses, and help identify new AP courses to offer that might best meet the needs and potential of your students.

Please direct questions about PSAT or *AP Potential*, toward the College Readiness Unit at the GaDOE: Becky Chambers ([rchambers@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:rchambers@doe.k12.ga.us)), or Bonnie Marshall ([bmarshall@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:bmarshall@doe.k12.ga.us)), or Georgia McSwain ([gmcswain@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:gmcswain@doe.k12.ga.us)).

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## **Mandated Reporter Training Webinar**

The GaDOE is hosting a webinar provided by the Georgia Department of Human Resources and Care Solutions, Inc. entitled ***Mandated Reporter Training for Educators*** on Wednesday, January 7, 2015, from 3:30pm to 4:30pm.

Jeffrey Brown, Director of the Child Protective Services (CPS) Intake Communications Center, in conjunction with Erica Goldthorp, Senior Associate for Care Solutions, Inc., will lead the webinar and answer questions. The webinar will demonstrate the ways an individual can report suspected child abuse and neglect to the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services, including what happens once a report has been made, what kind of follow-up the reporter can expect, and how to access a free training course on mandated reporting requirements written specifically for employees, volunteers, and contractors of Georgia public schools.

Please register for the **Mandated Reporter Training for Educators** webinar scheduled for January 7, 2015, 3:30 PM EST at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/194970162819930113>

After registering, attendees will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. Please contact Allan Meyer at [ameyer@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:ameyer@doe.k12.ga.us) with questions about registering. If you have questions about the training, please contact Marilyn Watson at [mawatson@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mawatson@doe.k12.ga.us).

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## GaDOE School Climate Survey

School climate surveys for the 2014-2015 school year are now available. Data from the **Georgia Student Health Survey 2.0**, the **Georgia School Personnel Survey** and the **Georgia Parent Survey**, along with other sources, will be used in the calculation of a **School Climate Star Rating** which is a diagnostic tool within the CCRPI. Each of the surveys is administered online through the provided URL address. As soon as the school administrator enters the URL address into the web browser, a drop-down menu will appear and the school administrator will use the drop-down menu to select their school district and their school. If there are new schools that wish to participate that are not included in the drop-down menu, please contact GaDOE using the contact information below.

**The surveys will remain open through Friday, February 27, 2015.** It is critical for all schools to participate in each of the surveys.

- **Georgia Student Health Survey 2.0**

There are two versions of the Georgia Student Health Survey (GSHS) 2.0. The first version is for middle and high school students (grades 6 – 12), and the second version is a short survey for elementary students (grades 3-5). **At least 75% of students at each grade level (3-12) must participate in the GSHS 2.0 to be eligible for the School Climate Star Rating.** Please make plans for your elementary, middle and high school students to participate in the GSHS 2.0. Survey responses are anonymous and will be submitted directly to the Georgia Department of Education for analysis. The survey is offered at no cost to all Georgia public school districts and private schools that wish to participate. We will let you know soon when the Spanish version of the student survey is available. The URL addresses for the elementary, middle and high school surveys are posted below.

**Access the surveys through the links below:**

[Georgia Student Health Survey 2.0 – ELEMENTARY SCHOOL \(grades 3-5\)](#)

[Georgia Student Health Survey 2.0 - MIDDLE SCHOOL \(grades 6-8\)](#)

[Georgia Student Health Survey 2.0 - HIGH SCHOOL \(grades 9-12\)](#)

- **Georgia School Personnel Survey**

The **Georgia School Personnel Survey** (GSPS) is modeled after the student survey and includes 31 questions. The GSPS is for all teachers, school administrators, certified staff members and other classified staff members (paraprofessionals, office staff, cafeteria workers, custodians, etc.) who work at least 50 percent of the day in the school. **At least 75% of your teachers and administrators must participate in the survey to be eligible for the School Climate Star Rating.** Most teachers should be able to participate in the GSPS using their classroom computer. The survey is also accessible using an iPad or smartphone. Survey responses are anonymous and will be submitted directly to the Georgia Department of Education for analysis. Data results from the Georgia School Personnel Survey will not be available to the public and will not be posted online. Access the survey [here](#).

- **Georgia Parent Survey**

The **Georgia Parent Survey** is also modeled after the student survey and contains 24 questions. A Spanish version of the parent survey will be available soon. Parents will be able to complete the survey using their personal computers, smartphones or iPads. For parents that do not have access to the Internet, school administrators might consider scheduling dates and times to allow parents to complete the Georgia Parent Survey at school. All parents should be encouraged to participate in the Georgia Parent Survey because the data will be used to calculate the **School Climate Star Rating**. However, there is no mandatory participation rate for parents. Survey responses are anonymous and will be submitted directly to the Georgia Department of Education for analysis. Data results from the Georgia Parent Survey will not be available to the public and will not be posted online. Access the survey [here](#).

A survey participation website has been developed to allow schools to monitor their survey participation rates. The survey participation website was emailed directly to superintendents.

Federal law requires that the student survey questions be made available for review by all interested parties; therefore, copies may be reproduced and made available to parents or other parties upon request. Copies of the Georgia Student Health Survey 2.0 questions are available [online](#). Please ensure that all parents/guardians know about the Georgia Student Health Survey 2.0 and are given the option to opt out if desired.

Please contact Marilyn Watson and/or Jeff Hodges with questions at [mawatson@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mawatson@doe.k12.ga.us)/(404) 651-7179, or [jhodges@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:jhodges@doe.k12.ga.us)/(404) 463-7891.

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## **State Charter Collaborative Communities**

The GaDOE has created a schedule of Collaborative Communities for state charter schools in the 2014-15 school year focused on special education. The information presented will assist schools in the five focus areas for implementation of IDEA: the Identification Process, Services and Supports, Student Progress, Parent Engagement, and College and Career Readiness. **Two attendees** may participate from each school. Register at [www.mresa.org](http://www.mresa.org) or contact Raylicia Davis at [raylicia.davis@mresa.org](mailto:raylicia.davis@mresa.org) with questions.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	PARKING
2/11/15	10:00 - 2:00	Chick-Fil-A	5200 Buffington Road Atlanta, Georgia No Parking Fee
5/6/15	10:00 - 2:00	Chick-Fil-A	5200 Buffington Road Atlanta, Georgia No Parking Fee

**Chick-fil-A will provide a complimentary Continental Breakfast and Lunch each day.**

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## **GaDOE Emails**

To ensure that schools receive all important emails from the GaDOE, the GaDOE staff suggests that school officials exempt [list.doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:list.doe.k12.ga.us) at 168.8.224.113 and 65.83.34.230 from filtering. Please keep in mind that “whitelisting” these addresses does not always exempt them from all forms of filtering – please check your e-mail filter documentation.

The GaDOE is currently using Citrix GoToMeeting as the agency platform for webinars, so school officials may wish to make sure those addresses are not being caught in an e-mail filter. The sending addresses are as follows:

[customercare@gotowebinar.com](mailto:customercare@gotowebinar.com)  
[customercare@gototraining.com](mailto:customercare@gototraining.com)  
[customercare@gotomeeting.com](mailto:customercare@gotomeeting.com)

*For further assistance, please contact the Technology Management Customer Support Team by emailing [dticket@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:dticket@doe.k12.ga.us) or by calling 1-800-869-1011. Please provide a detailed message as well as your contact information.*

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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 list of SCSC-identified ongoing grant opportunities is available [here](#).

### **REACH Scholarship**

#### **Georgia Student Finance Commission**

The REACH (Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen) School System application for participation in the 2015-2016 school year is now open to all Georgia school systems and school superintendents are invited to apply. REACH is a needs-based mentorship and scholarship program designed to encourage students to persist in their educational pursuits. Part of the state's Complete College Georgia initiative, REACH school systems identify low income eighth grade students who display academic promise and provide them with the academic, social, and financial support they will need to graduate from high school, attend and complete college and achieve success in the workforce.

Applications must be electronically submitted by **5:00 p.m. on January 15, 2015**. More information is available here: [https://www.gsfc.org/REACH/forms/Reach\\_Application\\_Distributed.pdf](https://www.gsfc.org/REACH/forms/Reach_Application_Distributed.pdf)

### **FY16 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers**

#### **Georgia Department of Education**

The GaDOE's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) program is pleased to announce the release of the FY16 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Request for Proposal (RFP). This competition seeks to fund applicants who will operate 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs beginning in the 2015-2016 school year. Please visit the [U.S. Department of Education website](#) or [GaDOE website](#) for more information regarding 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC rules, regulations, and guidance.

Applicants will have the option of completing and submitting their 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC proposal(s) entirely online. Please visit the [21<sup>st</sup> CCLC RFP website](#) to view the FY16 RFP and Technical Guidance regarding this option. Although applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their proposal(s) online, hard copy submission(s) via mail or hand delivery is still available. Please visit the [GaDOE website](#) to download the FY16 RFP and its associated forms.

Everything needed to submit a proposal is included in the RFP itself, however please see below for some important suggestions and upcoming dates:

- It is strongly recommended all online applicants read the online RFP and Technical Guidance prior to beginning their proposal(s). Both of these documents can be found on the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC RFP website homepage.
- Applicants are encouraged to submit an Intent to Apply online, via email, or via fax no later than October 24<sup>th</sup>. Although not required, submitting an Intent to Apply will provide our staff the additional information necessary to help facilitate the RFP process.



- The application is due by 2:00 p.m. on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Contact: [21stcclc@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:21stcclc@doe.k12.ga.us).

### **2015 Toyota Family Teacher of the Year Award Call for Nominations National Center for Families Learning**

The [National Center for Families Learning](#) (NCFL) is accepting nominations for the [2015 Toyota Family Teacher of the Year Award](#), which will award a \$20,000 to an exemplary teacher engaging families in education. Educators working with families through schools, libraries, and many other community-based organizations will be considered, and nominations are due December 31, 2014.

The selected educator's school or program will receive the \$20,000 prize to further efforts to engage families in learning together and join an elite group of educators across the country that have been recognized as such for nearly two decades. NCFL will award the second prize winner a \$2,500 prize. Both winners will be announced in March at the [2015 Families Learning Summit](#), which will be held this year in Houston, TX. The grand prize winner will deliver a speech to summit attendees alongside keynote speaker Leland Melvin, former astronaut, NASA deputy director, and NFL player who currently co-chairs the White House STEM Council.

Educators can be nominated via the brief online application, and learn more about winning criteria and Toyota Family Teacher of the Year benefits, [here](#). For inspiration, [read](#) about last year's winner, Liz Atack (Nashville Public Library).

### **2015 Winter Conference Georgia Association of Educational Leaders**

Registration is now open for the 2015 conference, *Politics and the New Discipline*. The conference will be held January 25-27, 2015 at the Classic Center in Athens, Georgia. Speakers will include Ruby Payne, William Daggett, Phillip Hartley, Avery Niles, Heather George, Brooks Coleman, and Lindsay Tippins. [Information and Registration is available here](#).

### **2015 Leadership Conference Georgia Charter Schools Association**

Join GCSA for the second annual Leadership Conference on January 29-30. Following on the heels of a very successful 2014 conference, GCSA will continue the tradition of focusing this event to the school leaders, board members, business managers and new this year, teacher leadership. Plan now to attend this conference by putting the dates on your calendar and planning accordingly for budget to bring your team. See more at: <http://www.gacharters.org/event/2015-gcsa-leadership-conference/#sthash.PRTuGsf8.dpuf>.

### **DonorsChoose.org Online Fundraising Drive**

DonorsChoose.org is an online charity that makes it easy for donors to find meaningful projects to support. Public school teachers from every corner of America post classroom project requests on the website site, and donors can give any amount to the project that most inspires them. Schools can register their own projects at [www.donorschoose.org](http://www.donorschoose.org).