



# State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC)

## July 2014 Newsletter

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### SCSC Meetings

The State Charter Schools Commission met on June 25, 2014. The meeting minutes are available [here](#). The next Commission meeting is on Wednesday, July 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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### SCSC Returning Funds to Schools in July

The SCSC will voluntarily return an estimated total of \$2,281,000 to state charter schools during FY 2014. The amount of funding returned to each school is proportionate to the amount of money each school was initially deducted by the SCSC in FY14. State charters will receive the returned funding by the end of July.

SCSC operations are solely funded through an administrative fee deducted from the annual operating budgets of state charter schools. The SCSC voted unanimously to return any remaining funds to schools upon satisfaction of the SCSC's expenses in FY 2014. Because these funds do not lapse, state charter schools can utilize them to cover expenses during the upcoming school year. Earlier this year, the SCSC also voted to decrease its administrative fee from 3 percent to slightly less than 2 percent in FY 2014. In statute, the administrative fee is set at 3 percent unless the Commission votes to reduce that percentage.

"The SCSC is dedicated to providing state charter schools the resources necessary to improve the educational outcomes for their students," said SCSC Executive Director Bonnie Holliday. "Our ability to operate efficiently and return funding to state charter schools underscores our commitment to promoting and supporting high-quality educational options for Georgia's children."

The full press release is available [here](#).

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### Training Opportunities

The draft 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 save the dates for newly announced training opportunities below.

**Federal Grant Management**  
**October 2, 2014**  
**DECAL Oak Room, Atlanta, Georgia**

**Invited: Administrators, Business Managers, Grant Managers**

The Federal Grant Management training session is for school administrators, school business managers, and/or anyone at the school who participates in the management of federal grants. This session will be led by Brette Kaplan from Brustein and Manasevit, a nationally recognized federal education regulatory and legislative practice, and will focus on federal grants management requirements found in the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), including an overview of the three basic grants management systems (procurement, inventory, and financial management). Additionally, the training will cover federal requirements in applicable Office of Management and Budget (OMB) circulars and a discussion of the upcoming changes required by OMB's recently released Omni Circular. The SCSC will reimburse travel expenses in accordance with state guidelines.

**School Governance - Mandatory**  
**October 9-10, 2014 OR February 5-6, 2015 (choose one)**  
**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.

**Petitioner Boot Camp**  
**December 11, 2014**  
**Georgia Tech Hotel & Conference Center, Atlanta, 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.

**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.

*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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**[Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Survey](#)**

Reminder – please complete the [GaDOE Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Division Survey](#) sent to you by Bethany LeMoyné. This survey will assist Bethany in understanding your school's needs and inform training opportunities available to state charters in the upcoming academic year. Thank you for your participation!

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## **Reporting Deadlines**

The FY15 Reporting Calendar will soon be available on the SCSC website. Please note the upcoming reporting items due in **July**.

**Other** – Superintendent’s Test Certification - Spring

**Data Collection** – CPI, Special Education – Preschool Exit Data, Special Education – Post-Secondary Outcomes, Special Education – Timelines, Special Education – Continuation of Services

*A full list of FY14 reporting items and associated deadlines can be found [here](#). For questions about reporting deadlines, please contact Terence Washington, SCSC Accountability Manager, at [terence.washington@scsc.georgia.gov](mailto:terence.washington@scsc.georgia.gov) or (404) 656-2837.*

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## **E-Rate Modernization**

The Federal Communications Commission adopted an E-rate Modernization Order that will expand Wi-Fi networks in schools and libraries across America. The new rules are the next step in a comprehensive modernization of E-rate, the first such effort since the program’s creation 18 years ago. The program increases focus on the largest and most urgent need areas closing the Wi-Fi gap while transitioning support away from legacy technologies to 21<sup>st</sup> Century broadband connectivity, ensuring E-rate money is spent smartly, and improving program administration. The reform will expand Wi-Fi to more than 10 million students in 2015 alone.

A fact sheet is available [here](#).

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## **DPH Student Immunization Campaign**

Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, all students born on or after January 1, 2002, and entering or transferring into seventh grade in Georgia, must receive a tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough) booster vaccination (Tdap) and an adolescent meningococcal vaccination (MCV4). The same applies for any students new to Georgia who are entering grades eight through twelve. This law affects all public and private schools including charter schools, community schools, juvenile court schools and other alternative school settings (excluding homeschool).

To promote awareness of the new requirements, the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) has designated June 23-27 as Preteen Vaccination Awareness Week. Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough) and meningitis are all vaccine-preventable diseases. Not only are vaccines important for your child's health, these vaccines are mandatory for children to attend school.

The full press release is available [here](#).

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## **GaDOE Title Programs Regional Workshops**

The annual GaDOE Title Programs regional workshops begin in July and will include programmatic and budgetary information from several federal programs. The dates for the regional workshops are below and a district may attend any of the three workshops provided. The regional workshops are divided into two days.

Regional Meeting Schedule		
Dates	Time	Location
July 31 – August 1, 2014	9:00 – 4:00	Houston County Annex Auditorium, Suite A
August 4 – 5, 2014	9:00 – 4:00	The Golden Isle Career Academy (GICA) Glynn County
August 12 – 13, 2014	9:00 – 4:00	Forsyth County ACE Cafeteria

Day 1 will include: Title I, Part C; Title I, Part A Homeless and Title X, Part C McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth; Title I, Part A Neglected Set-Aside and Title I, Part D Programs for Neglected and Delinquent Children; Title VI, Part B Rural Education Achievement Program; Title I, Part A, Parental Involvement and Title I, Part A, Academic Achievement for Disadvantaged Children.

Day 2 will include: Title II, Part A Teacher Quality; Title I, Part A School Improvement 1003(a); and Title III, Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students.

Please direct questions to Margo DeLaune, GaDOE Title Programs Director, at (404) 657-1796 or email [mdelaune@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mdelaune@doe.k12.ga.us).

### Save the Dates – State Charter Collaborative Communities

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) has created a schedule of Collaborative Communities for state charter schools in the 2014-15 school year focused on special education. **Participants will have the opportunity to acquire and share information regarding the implementation of compliant special education procedures and practices.** Additional information will be provided in August regarding registration, the number of participants allowed from each school, and another details.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
OCTOBER 1, 2014	10:00 - 2:00	To Be Announced
DECEMBER 10, 2014	10:00 - 2:00	CHICK-FIL-A HOME OFFICE 5200 Buffington Road Atlanta, GA 30349
FEBRUARY 11, 2015	10:00 - 2:00	CHICK-FIL-A HOME OFFICE 5200 Buffington Road Atlanta, GA 30349
MAY 6, 2015	10:00 - 2:00	CHICK-FIL-A HOME OFFICE 5200 Buffington Road Atlanta, GA 30349

### 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](#).

#### **2014 Charter School Program Grants**

## **U.S. Department of Education**

The 2014 CSP Grants for Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools Notice Inviting Application is available [here](#). This program is designed to assist non-profit charter management organizations, and other entities that are not for-profit entities, in replicating or expanding high-quality charter schools with demonstrated records of success. Applicants must have experience operating more than one high-quality charter school. A school that receives funds under the Replication and Expansion competition is ineligible to receive funds for the same purpose under section 5202(c)(2) of the ESEA, including for planning and program design or the initial implementation of a charter school.

Applications are due by July 21, 2014, at 4:30:00 p.m. Washington DC time, and must be submitted through [Grants.gov](#). Applicants must register at [Grants.gov](#) prior to submitting an application. Registration is a multi-step process, and [Grants.gov](#) recommends allowing several weeks to complete the registration process. More information on the process can be found at <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html>.

More information is available at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/charter-rehqcs/applicant.html>.

## **2014-2015 Special Education Leadership Development Academy (SELDA) for New Special Education Directors Georgia Department of Education and Georgia Council of Administrators of Special Education**

The purpose of SELDA is to prepare new special education directors through a series of meetings and forums. SELDA is committed to offering the support directors need to understand and provide general supervision that monitors the implementation of the IDEA.

Participation in SELDA is limited to special education directors within their first 2 years of service and/or the assistant to the special education director. We will limit the academy to 50 participants, therefore we will accept New special education directors first, next directors within their first 2 years of service, and finally assistants to the special education director.

Registration for all 6 SELDA meetings for NEW special education administrators is free.

Register here: <http://surveygoldcloud.com/s/B819C571A57F4C79/126.htm>

## **Connections for Classrooms Grant Program Georgia's Digital Learning Task Force**

Connections for Classrooms is a \$39M grant program joining multiple state agencies around the common goal of ensuring Georgia schools and classrooms have the high-speed broadband access required for digital and blended learning. The program is part of a broader statewide effort to expand classroom high-speed broadband access in response to Governor Deal's [Digital Learning Task Force](#) recommendations as well as the [GaDOE's efforts](#) to enable personalized learning for Georgia students.

The grant application is available [here](#) with applications due on August 29. Awards will be made in October.

More information is available on the [Governor's Office of Student Achievement website](#). Please direct questions to Steve Korwan, [skorwan@georgia.gov](mailto:skorwan@georgia.gov).

## **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Data Collections Conference Georgia Department of Education**

The Georgia Department of Education will host a three-day conference at the Classic Center in Athens, Georgia. The conference mission continues to focus on presenting attendees with a better understanding of state and federal reporting

requirements, including any reporting changes for fiscal year 2015. The conference will also provide attendees with information related to the importance of internal data collections and reporting procedures.

**Target Audience:**

Any individual (SEA, district and school level administrators, and any support staff) accountable for state and federal reporting related to funding, accountability, or education program management is encouraged to attend the conference. The target audience includes any individual with responsibility for collecting, maintaining, reporting, or certifying data at any levels within the school district.

**Conference Dates:**

August 27-29, 2014 (**Registration Ends August 8, 2014 or when registration reaches 1,000 participants**)

Register [here](#).

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