



# STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION OF GEORGIA

## MAY 2016 NEWSLETTER

*The SCSC is on Twitter! Make sure you are following us [@SCSCGa](#)! We share pertinent news, information on trainings, highlights from our schools and other things that you may want to know!*

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### SCSC Meetings

The last monthly State Charter Schools Commission was held on April 27, 2016. The April meeting minutes are available [here](#). The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 25, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) Board Room. The 2016 Commission meeting calendar is available [on the SCSC website](#).

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### GaDOE 2016 Federal Programs Conference

The Georgia Department of Education will host a two-day (June 22-23, 2016) conference at the Georgia International Convention Center (GICC) and the Atlanta Airport Marriot Gateway Hotel in College Park, Georgia. This year's conference is unique in that ALL federal programs will participate in the conference this year in a collaborative effort to provide our districts across the state with all the technical assistance information required for federal program implementation in one location. Over 170 sessions have been scheduled covering topics presented by program area specialists. **The SCSC strongly encourages all state charter schools to send at least one representative at each segment of the conference.** It is suggested that small districts/SCSCs that have one person in charge of several or all federal programs assign others to attend the conference to assist in gathering the important information provided that one person alone would not be able to obtain.

**More Information and Registration:** <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/Ga-Fed-Programs-Conference.aspx>

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### 2016 CCRPI Information

The Georgia Department of Education has developed resources for you to help prepare and gather data for the 2016 CCRPI. As always, if you need assistance or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the CCRPI [Accountability Specialist](#) assigned to work with your school.

Please visit and bookmark the newly-designed [accountability webpage](#). Here you will find 2016 CCRPI Resources in the [CCRPI Resources for Educators](#) section. Resources include the [2016 CCRPI Data Element Quick Reference Guide](#) and [Ensuring Accurate Career Data for CCRPI](#). Additional resources will be posted as they become available. Importantly, there are no major calculation changes for the [2016 CCRPI](#).

As a reminder, [Student Record](#) (SR) closes June 15, 2016. **We cannot stress enough that the data school leaders certify in SR is the data that is utilized for CCRPI.** Student Record Coordinators have been participating in detailed webinars with GaDOE's Data Collections team. In order to assist all school leaders in ensuring accurate data for CCRPI, GaDOE is hosting the following webinar with two repeat sessions:

**Webinar: Ensuring Accurate 2016 CCRPI Data for School and District Leaders**

This session, designed for school leaders, will provide an overview of the data sources for the 2016 CCRPI, with an emphasis on how schools provide data to the GaDOE and how school leaders can check the data they submit before Superintendent sign off when Student Record closes in June.

Thursday, May 19, 2-3 PM

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8725655383168057345>

Friday, June 3, 10-11 AM (**repeat session**)

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5200858599162075138>

Tuesday, June 7, 1-2 PM (**repeat session**)

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6669346537878132481>

The webinar platform requires you to pre-register in advance. Your pre-registration will also result in your receiving the recording of the session after its conclusion. GaDOE will post a recording of the webinar on their website after the session is completed.

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## **GaDOE Data Collections Conference**

The Georgia Department of Education will host a three-day (August 24-26, 2016) 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 2017. The conference will also provide attendees with information related to the importance of internal data collections and reporting procedures. **The SCSC strongly encourages all state charter schools to send appropriate personnel to the GaDOE Data Collections Conference.** Registration for the conference opens on Monday, April 18, 2016, and space is limited.

**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.

**More Information:** <http://www.gadoe.org/Technology-Services/Data-Collections/Pages/Data-Conference.aspx>

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## **FY2017 (2016-2017) Allotment Sheets**

The Georgia Department of Education has posted the FY2017 (2016-2017 school year) allotment sheets for all currently operating SCSC schools. SCSC schools that will be opening during the 2016-2017 school year will receive their allotment sheets this summer after reporting their enrollment figures to the SCSC.

An allotment sheet is a one-page financial document that shows all the state funds earned by a school system or a SCSC school over a one-year period. It is important for school leaders to review these documents to verify that the school is being funded appropriately. It is also important for schools to keep up with the updates that are made to their annual allotments throughout the year.

The allotment sheets for all SCSC schools and school districts can be found here: [https://app3.doe.k12.ga.us/ows-bin/owa/qbe\\_reports.public\\_menu?p\\_fy=2000](https://app3.doe.k12.ga.us/ows-bin/owa/qbe_reports.public_menu?p_fy=2000).

You will need to select the fiscal year (e.g., FY 2017) and the QBE003 report. It is best to use Internet Explorer to pull these reports.

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### **Financial Efficiency Star Rating**

The Georgia Department of Education recently released district-level Financial Efficiency Star Ratings that are calculated using the CCRPI scores published on May 3, 2016. State charter schools will not receive star ratings this year because state charter schools will be calculated as “schools” rather than “districts” for the purposes of the Financial Efficiency Star Rating. State charter schools will receive their school’s Financial Efficiency Star Rating from GaDOE next year that will be calculated by using the school’s per-pupil spending. State charter schools can login to their MyGaDOE portal to review their current school-level per pupil spending.

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### **Training Opportunities**

The [2015-2016 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.

*To attend a training session or for more information, contact [Katie Manthey](#), SCSC Academic Accountability Manager, via email or at (404) 656-2837.*

### **Governance Training**

**Deadline - June 30, 2016**

Georgia law, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2084(f), requires every member of a governing board of a state charter school to participate in annual governing board training. For FY16, state charter school governing board members had the opportunity to participate in SCSC-provided training at no cost, or to seek alternate training using their own funds. As the opportunity to participate in SCSC provided governance training has now expired, state charter board members must fulfill the obligation through the following method.

- State charter school governing board members *may use their own funds* to contract for a minimum of 12 contact hours of training from a provider that is approved by the State Board of Education to deliver governance training to charter schools. Training content must reflect the topics covered at the SCSC Governance Training. Review the [SCSC Guidance on Governance Training](#) for a complete list of requirements and to ensure compliance.

## **TKES and LKES Training**

July 18-19 (TKES, 2 day training); July 20 (LKES, 1 day training)

OR

July 24-25 (TKES, 2 day training); July 26 (LKES, 1 day training)

8:30-4:30 Daily

**Georgia Cyber Academy, 1745 Phoenix Blvd., Suite 100, Atlanta, Georgia**

All schools are required to implement the Teacher and Leader Keys Effectiveness Systems to evaluate school administrators and teachers (TKES and LKES). To conduct the evaluations, representatives from the school must receive training and credentialing. The SCSC has worked with the GaDOE to schedule an initial training and credentialing session for new state charter schools and newly hired staff at existing state charter schools this summer.

State charters should send the individuals from their schools who will be charged with conducting TKES/LKES evaluations to this training. The SCSC recommends that at least two individuals become credentialed to conduct TKES evaluations (evaluations of teachers) and that two individuals become credentialed to conduct LKES evaluations (evaluations of school leaders). Generally, school administrators are charged with conducting TKES evaluations, and the principal and a board member are charged with conducting LKES evaluations. The SCSC has created a TKES/LKES guidance document for state charters that may address your questions, available [here](#).

Please email GaDOE Evaluation System Specialist, Kathy Reese, [KReese@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:KReese@doe.k12.ga.us), with the date(s) you plan to attend.

## **Charter Schools Financial Management Certification: Internal Controls for Charter Schools**

July 26, 2016

**Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts, Atlanta, Georgia**

The Carl Vinson Institute of Government Charter Schools Financial Management Certification equips participants with the unique skills and knowledge needed to financially operate a charter school. The Internal Controls course will introduce the participant to the five components of internal controls: control environment, risk assessment, control activities, information and communication and monitoring. Discussion will include the importance of internal controls for charter schools including high risk areas charter schools should consider. Find more information, including the full course calendar, [here](#).

## **Charter Schools Financial Management Certification: Budgeting for Charter Schools**

July 27, 2016

**Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts, Atlanta, Georgia**

The Carl Vinson Institute of Government Charter Schools Financial Management Certification equips participants with the unique skills and knowledge needed to financially operate a charter school. The Budgeting course will focus on roles of the board and staff in budgeting, budget preparation process, estimating revenues and expenditures, projection of ending fund balance, and justification of budget to funding authorities and board. Budget administration, long term financial planning, and the Quality Basic Education funding formula will also be discussed. Find more information, including the full course calendar, [here](#).

*To attend a training session or for more information, contact [Katie Manthey](#), SCSC Academic Accountability Manager, via email or at (404) 656-2837.*

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## Reporting Deadlines

The following reporting items are due in **June and July**:

- **Other:** SLO Post-Assessment Data Submission and Superintendent's Test Certification-Spring,
- **Data Collections:** Student Record; Student Class – Class Size; End-of-Pathway Assessments (EOPA); Student Course Profile; GUIDE; Special Education – Disproportionality, Preschool Exist Data, Postsecondary outcomes, Timelines, Continuation of services

The [FY16 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, via email or at (404) 656-2837.*

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## College Scholarship Opportunities

There are many scholarship opportunities and resources currently available for high school students listed below that may interest SCSC students:

- [GACOLLEGE411: Georgia Scholarship Finder](#)
  - [My College Dollars: College Board's National Scholarship Search and Tracker](#)
  - [StudentScholarships.org](#)
  - [International Education and Financial Aid](#)
  - [National Merit Scholarship Corporation](#)
  - [Scholarship Help](#)
  - [United Negro College Fund](#)
  - [The Scholarship Academy Workbook](#)
  - [Scholarship Guidance](#)
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## School Calendar Submission

The Georgia Department of Education is required to collect school calendar information each school year from local school systems and state charter schools, as well as any amendments to the calendar throughout the year. For the 2016-2017 school year, the web-based data reporting tool will be used again. Ga DOE requests each state charter school provide this information in the web-based data system even though it may not be required. State Board Rule [160-5-1-.02 School Day and School Year for Students and Employees](#) requires local school systems to submit their school calendar information to the Georgia Department of Education by **May 31, 2016**. Please contact Allan Meyer with questions, at [ameyer@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:ameyer@doe.k12.ga.us) or (404) 657- 1065.

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## [Participating in the Tobacco-Free School Initiative](#)

The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) is seeking the input of state charter schools in the support of the Tobacco-Free School initiative. DPH would like to work with all state charter schools to adopt a 100% Tobacco Free Schools policy and eliminate tobacco from Georgia's elementary and secondary school campuses.

Model policies are available to the governing boards of charters schools that have not yet adopted such a policy. DPH also has created assessment tools to ensure alignment between school policies and the state's initiative.

For questions or support, please contact Anne-Marie L. Coleman at DPH ([Anne-Marie.Coleman@dph.ga.gov](mailto:Anne-Marie.Coleman@dph.ga.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 list of SCSC-identified ongoing grant opportunities is available [here](#).*

### **SB 364 Changes to TKES/LKES Webinar** **Georgia Department of Education**

Teacher and Leader Effectiveness will **host a statewide webinar** to present the **changes in TKES and LKES resulting from SB 364**. At that time, we will also distribute draft guidance for feedback as well as a timeline to assist districts in planning. Please know we are considering a strategic rollout that offers the greatest amount of flexibility and support.

Please register here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1211556635173178372>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Cindy Saxon, Associate Superintendent of Teacher and Leader Effectiveness at the Georgia Department of Education, is already scheduled to attend sessions in some RESAs as well as some conferences. Please contact her at [csaxon@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:csaxon@doe.k12.ga.us) or 404-803-3419 if you would like her to visit your school.

### **FY17 Innovation Fund Grant Opportunities** **Governor's Office of Student Achievement**

The Innovation Fund supports local education agencies (LEAs), regional education service agencies (RESAs) (on behalf of a group of schools or LEAs), traditional public schools and charter schools in planning, implementing, and scaling innovative education programs that advance student achievement throughout Georgia. Recently, Governor Deal appropriated state funding for Fiscal Year 2017 to provide new grant opportunities. The funding priorities for these grants include the following:

- Applied Learning with a Focus on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) Education,
- Birth to Age Eight Language and Literacy Development,
- Development and Replication of Blended Learning School Models, and
- Teacher and Leader Development for High-Need Schools.

**On June 2 and 3, 2016, GOSA will a host technical assistance day for all agencies interested in applying for an Innovation Fund grant.** To **register** for the technical assistance day, please [click here](#). To **view an agenda** for the technical assistance day, please [click here](#). Registration for the technical assistance day closes on May 26.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Rebecca Ellis, Innovation Fund Program Manager, or Dr. Cayanna Good, Deputy Director of Innovations and Academic Strategy, at [rellis@georgia.gov](mailto:rellis@georgia.gov) or [cgood@georgia.gov](mailto:cgood@georgia.gov). To read more about these grant opportunities, visit the Governor's Office of Student Achievement's (GOSA) website at <http://gosa.georgia.gov/innovation-fund-grant-opportunities-0>.

### **Institute Designed to Educate All Student (IDEA Conference) Georgia Department of Education**

Georgia Department of Education's Division for Special Education Services and Supports is offering the IDEAS conference in partnership with Georgia Tools for Life and Georgia Council for Exceptional Children. The IDEAS Conference will offer a wide range of session topics and presentations that will address technical and functional perspectives for all educators who teach students with disabilities.

Registration is now open and free for all attendees. A registration fee of \$35.00 is required to reserve your seat in a pre-conference session. Everyone must register in advance to attend the conference and/or pre-conference sessions.

5th Annual IDEAS Conference – June 7-10, 2016

Pre-Conference Sessions – June 6-7, 2016

**To register and for more information:** <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/IDEAS-2016.aspx>

### **National Public Charter Schools Association National Charter Schools Conference**

National Charter Schools Conference will be in Nashville, Tennessee from June 26-29 and delivers professional development, learning, and networking opportunities for every participant. Conference attendees generally include charter school and education leaders, board members, policymakers, and back office staff. Click [here](#) to view a draft list of sessions.

**To register and for more information:** <http://www.publiccharters.org/involved/conference-2016/>

### **USDA Rural Development Community Facility Program**

The USDA Rural Development Community Facility Program is offering to provide an essential service to rural communities in Georgia. The USDA has selected Georgia to receive one of the nation's highest allocations for this program and eligible SCSC schools can apply for a direct loan or grant to meet their facility needs if they are in a qualified area.

Eligible rural areas include: cities, towns, and census designated places (CDP's) with populations of 20,000 or less. Much of Metro Atlanta, Augusta, and Savannah are excluded. The funds can be used for purchasing real estate/buildings; construction, expansion, or renovations, to essential community facilities; and purchasing vehicles and major equipment. The loan terms are up to 40 years, dependent upon the useful life of the security and repayment ability. Plus, the principal can be deferred for up to 3 years to allow facility to become operational. The maximum loan amount is up to 100% of eligible project costs.

Eligible SCSC schools can apply in their first year of operation but the school must successfully demonstrate the ability to fulfill the terms of the program which would often include paying back the principal and interest associated with a direct loan.

For further information contact Jack Stanek, Community Programs Director, at his email [jack.stanek@ga.usda.gov](mailto:jack.stanek@ga.usda.gov) or his telephone number (706) 546-2471. Also, the program's website is <http://www.rd.usda.gov/ga>.

### **AntiBullying Summit Auburn University**

Auburn University will host its sixth national AntiBullying Summit in Peachtree City, Georgia, on June 23-24. Bullying affects academic performance, school safety, student mental health (suicide, self harm, drug abuse), and school drop out rates/absenteeism.

The Summit has received endorsement from the Georgia Professional Standards Commission and has been approved for CEU and PLU credit. Approximately one-fourth of today's students report that they have been the victims of bullying, with the highest rate in the middle school grades. The issue, particularly cyberbullying, is of great concern to all schools and communities.

Keynote speakers will include Dr. Sameer Hinduja, co-director of the Cyberbullying Research Center; and Trish Prabhu, a teen-ager who developed ReThink, bullying intervention software. Other speakers include the Honorable Steven Teske, who serves on the judicial advisory council of the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice, Marilyn Watson from the Georgia Department of Education who will speak on School Climate Star Rating, and Darrell Green, NFL Hall of Famer who has established a national Strong Youth, Strong Community Foundation that works with at-risk youth.

The registration form is available [here](#). Please contact Linda Dean, Auburn University College of Education Special Projects Coordinator at [lhd0001@auburn.edu](mailto:lhd0001@auburn.edu) or 334-844-4488 with questions.

### **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).

### **Get Georgia Reading Campaign**

This campaign is geared toward getting all of Georgia's children on a path to third grade reading proficiency by 2020. The campaign unites public and private partners to pursue language, literacy, development, and sustainability to reach this goal. Get involved or read more about the initiative [here](#).

### **Georgia Partnership for TeleHealth 2016 Rural School-based Telehealth Center Grant**

Georgia Partnership for TeleHealth (GPT) is accepting applications for the 2016 Georgia Rural School-based Telehealth Center Grant. Rural Georgia public and charter schools located in counties with a population of less than 35,000 are eligible to apply. The deadline for application is June 10, 2016. Selected recipients will receive up to \$30,000 in grant funding to develop a school-based telehealth program and for purchasing telehealth equipment and training.

**For more information and to apply:** <http://www.gatelehealth.org/solutions/funding-opportunities/>