



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC)

May 2014 Newsletter

SCSC Meetings

The State Charter Schools Commission last met on April 30, 2014. For the meeting minutes, click [here](#). The next Commission meeting is on Wednesday, May 28, 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](#).

Training Opportunities

Please note training sessions and resources available to state charters below.

How to be an LEA

Presentations and materials from the May 8-9 How to be an LEA training are now available on the [Training Presentations and Materials](#) page of the SCSC website.

Strategic Planning Sessions

*Carl Vinson Institute of Government and Georgia Charter Schools Association
Summer 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 or (404) 656-2822 immediately.**

A draft list of 2014-2015 SCSC training opportunities will soon be 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. For questions about training opportunities, please contact Lauren Holcomb, SCSC Director of Organizational and Resource Development, at lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov or (404) 656-2822.

Reporting Deadlines

Please note the upcoming reporting items due in **May and June**:

Title Programs - Title I Part A Budget Amendments, Title Programs Self-Monitoring Checklist

Data Collection – Student Record, Student Course Profile, Special Education - Disproportionality, End-of-Pathway Assessments (EOPA)

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 or (404) 656-2837.

Georgia State Charter Teacher Wins National Teaching Award

Congratulations to Georgia Cyber Academy literature teacher Christian Kraus for winning the American Pioneer of Teaching Award from PublicSchoolOptions.org, a national parent organization. The competition was held in conjunction with National teacher Appreciation Week and recognizes top performing K-12 teachers who work in nontraditional public schools, such as virtual, charter and magnet schools. The PublicSchoolOptions.org online community nominates teachers and votes to select the winner.

The full story is available [here](#).

School Calendars

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) is requesting that all school systems provide their 2014-15 school calendars. GaDOE is required to collect school calendar information each school year from local school systems as well as any amendments to the calendar throughout the year. GaDOE uses this data to verify that districts are meeting the statutory and regulatory school year and instructional minutes requirements. All school should have received an email request from GaDOE with the website link and access information included.

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, 2014**.

If you have questions regarding this process, please contact Allan Meyer by email at ameyer@doe.k12.ga.us or by telephone at 404-657-1065.

SLO State Exemplar Assessments

In an effort to provide additional support around Student Learning Objectives, the GaDOE Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Division will develop and provide SLO State Exemplar Assessments for 230 unique courses. These exemplars will be available in SharePoint by mid-July. SLO assessments that have been submitted to the department through the Shared Resource Library, as well as, items from the item bank will be used to develop the SLO State Exemplar Assessments. These items will also be reviewed by content experts. Districts may choose to use these items or use the SLOs that they have already developed for these courses within their own district. The list of courses is available [here](#).

Please direct questions to Avis King, GaDOE Deputy Superintendent for School Improvement, at (404) 651-7277 or aking@doe.k12.ga.us.

Student Growth Models

GaDOE's Georgia Student Growth Model (GSGM) video is now available. This animated video provides a brief overview of Student Growth Percentiles and is intended to assist schools in communicating information to principals, teachers, parents, and students. The video can be found on the [GaDOE Student Growth Model website](#).

Please contact Allison Timberlake at atimberlake@doe.k12.ga.us or (404) 463-6666 with questions.

FY15 Consolidated Application Webinar

The GaDOE Title Programs division invites schools to participate in a Blackboard Collaborate session entitled "Navigating the FY15 Consolidated Application." This web-based session will review the process for completing the FY15 Consolidated Application. Please refer to the following information regarding time and access information. No password is required for this session.

Session Name: NAVIGATING THE FY15 CONSOLIDATED APPLICATION

Session Starts: May 27, 2014 9:00 AM Eastern (EDT, North America/US)

Session Ends: May 27, 2014 12:00 PM Eastern (EDT, North America/US)

To join the session, copy and paste the following link into your Internet browser:

<https://sas.illuminate.com/m.jnlp?sid=2012003&password=M.B2559B91F8E1318D677D4AAA180B84>

This webinar will be recorded for future reference. Please direct questions to Jennifer Davenport with GaDOE at (404) 463-1955 or by email at jedavenp@doe.k12.ga.us.

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](#).

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.

An informational webinar will be held on May 20th at 10:00 a.m. Use the link below to connect to this session.

<https://sas.illuminate.com/m.jnlp?sid=2012003&password=M.89B4D19B6193664C7BC2F55E1F4DDA>

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

2014 IDEAS Conference

3rd Annual IDEAS Conference - June 3-6, 2014

The 2014 IDEAS Conference is presented by the Georgia Department of Education's Division for Special Education Services and Supports in partnership with Georgia Tools for Life and Georgia CEC. The IDEAS Conference will offer a wide range of session topics and presentations that address technical and functional perspectives for all educators who teach students with disabilities.

Pre-Conference Sessions - June 2-3, 2014

Monday, June 2, 12:45 - Tuesday, June 3, 11:45

Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, Georgia

Pre-Conference \$50

Conference \$75

Exhibitor Fee \$150

The full conference brochure is available [here](#) and registration access is available [here](#).

2014 COLLABORATE Conference

Ivy Preparatory Academy of Gwinnett

Ivy Preparatory Academy will host a half-day conference and professional learning opportunity open to all Georgia educators on Thursday, June 5, 2014. The conference is dedicated to sharing innovative practices between participating schools and there is no cost to attend. Outside presenters will be conduct professional learning sessions designed to foster collaboration and shared learning experiences. Development opportunities are available for teachers and leadership alike. Workshop leaders will guide attendees through collaborative sessions on Teaching and Learning, Leadership and Administration, and Ivy Prep Culture and Practices.

June 5, 2014

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Ivy Preparatory Academy at Gwinnett

3705 Engineering Drive

Norcross, Georgia 30092

Visit <http://site.tgae.org/> for more information and to register.

12th Annual Statewide Title Programs Conference

Georgia Department of Education

The 12th 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.

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 12th 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

Safety in our Schools Conference Georgia Department of Education

The Safety in our Schools Conference is presented by the Georgia Department of Education, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency, and the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Middle District of Georgia. July 8-10 at the UGA Hotel and Conference Center in Athens, Georgia. Topics will include, Managing Tragedy on Campus, Threat Assessment in K-12 Schools, Severe Weather Preparation, Addressing Bullying in Schools, among many others.

Find complete information, [here](#). To attend, register at www.georgiacenter.uga.edu/uga-hotel/conferences-events/register/safety-in-our-schools.

5th 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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