

## State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

### Summer Strategic Planning Opportunities for State Charter Schools

The SCSC will offer 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. Two opportunities are available and detailed information can be found below. The strategic planning sessions will include one or more representatives from the organizations below meeting with each individual state charter school to conduct an in-depth analysis of the school's needs. The cost of these 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.**

#### **Strategic Planning Opportunity #1: Carl Vinson Institute of Government Strategic Planning with Governing Boards**

The Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG) will conduct a strategic planning retreat for individual state charter school governing boards and create an executable strategic plan. The Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG) works with public officials throughout Georgia and around the world to improve governance.

For this specific opportunity, a CVIOG facilitator will be assigned to the state charter school and work with the governing board chair to select a date for a one-day strategic planning retreat. The facilitator will customize the strategic planning process in order to meet the school's individual needs. In advance of the retreat, the facilitator will schedule phone interviews with each member of the governing board and use an interview protocol to assess the purposes, priorities, and desired outcomes. The facilitator will work with the governing board chair to establish the agenda and bring in external experts to inform discussion as necessary. Following the planning session, the facilitator will prepare an executable strategic plan and share it with the governing board chair for edits. Once approved, the final plan is forwarded to the board.

The opportunity also includes two half-day check-in meetings with the facilitator on the school's progress executing the strategic plan at the mid-year point and end-of-year point.

#### **Strategic Planning Opportunity #2: Georgia Charter Schools Association Financial Planning**

The Georgia Charter Schools Association (GCSA) will provide a two-part financial planning session, an Internal Control review and a FY2015 Budget Review, with each individual state charter school to give the school a "best practice" perspective on current operations along with recommendations for improvements. GCSA is a Georgia non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation and the membership organization for Georgia's charter school operators and petitioners. GCSA develops and implements programs and services to aid charter leaders in advancing student achievement, accountability and success in all of Georgia's public charter schools.

#### **Internal Control Review**

Each state charter school will receive an internal control review, which includes an in-person interview with each staff member involved with the financial operation of the school. If an educational service provider (ESP) is involved, appropriate ESP staff will be interviewed as well. Once the review is completed,

a summary report with findings and recommendations will be provided to school and board leadership as well as SCSC staff. Each internal control review interview takes approximately two hours.

**FY2015 Budget Review**

GCSA staff will review the school's FY2015 budget, along with the written budget planning process and related policies, if available. Specific recommendations will be made based on the budget presented. Feedback will also be given on the budget planning process and related policies, if available.