CHARTER FOR SPRING CREEK CHARTER ACADEMY

This charter for Spring Creek Charter Academy ("Charter") is entered into by and between ~~Spring Creek Charter Academy, Inc.~~ Pataula Charter Academy, Inc. ("Petitioner") and the State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia ("SCSC") (collectively referred to as "the parties").

WHEREAS, the Petitioner submitted a petition proposing to establish a state charter school pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2060 *et seq*., the Charter Schools Act of 1998 ("Charter Schools Act") and O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2084;

WHEREAS, the SCSC finds that the petition complies with the provisions of the Charter Schools Act, and the rules, regulations, policies and procedures promulgated in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2063 and O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2084 and further finds that the petition is in the public interest; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article 31 and Article 31A of Chapter 2 Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the SCSC grants this Charter to permit Petitioner to operate Spring Creek Charter Academy ("the Charter School") in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Charter.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises, mutual agreements, and covenants contained herein and other good and valuable consideration, the sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

1. Definitions. The terms below will be interpreted in accordance with the following definitions, unless and until federal or state law, or the state accountability system, is amended otherwise:

    a. Education Service Provider means a nonprofit or for-profit organization that contracts with charter schools to provide multiple educational, operational, or comprehensive management services, including, but not limited to, curriculum design, instructional resources, professional development, financial and operational management, facilities management, or any combination thereof.

    b. Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE or Department) means the state agency charged with the fiscal and administrative management of certain aspects of K – 12 public education, including the implementation of federal and state mandates. Such management is subject to supervision and oversight by the State Board of Education.

    c. Governing Board means the governing board of the nonprofit organization for a state charter school and which is the same as the governing board of the state charter school which is involved in school-level governance of the state charter school.

    d. Local Educational Agency (LEA) means a public authority legally constituted with Georgia for administrative control or direction of public elementary or secondary schools. The Charter School shall act as its own LEA pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2090 and SBOE Rule 160-4-9.04, including but not limited to data reporting, student enrollment counting procedures, student achievement reporting, and funding allocations.

    e. School Leader means the individual with the highest authority in school administration regardless of title.

    f. State Board of Education (SBOE or State Board) means the constitutional authority which defines education policy for public K – 12 education agencies in Georgia.

2. Charter Term. The SCSC grants this Charter to Petitioner to operate the Charter School for a five-year term beginning on July 1, 2025 and expiring on June 30, 2030.

3. Grade Range. The Charter School shall serve grades K-12. The Charter School's total enrollment shall be at least 235 students but shall not exceed 650 students at any point during the charter term.

4. Mission Statement. The mission of the Charter School is to prepare students for life-long success by partnering with families and communities to create a safe, nurturing environment that engages and challenges students, fosters creativity and instill integrity and leadership skills that inspire students to reach their full potential.

5. School Educational Model and Instructional Days.

    a. Essential or Innovative Features. The Charter School shall implement project-based instruction based on constructivist theory. The Charter School shall use standards-based instruction and promote student-centered instruction with a focus on collaboration and the teacher acting as a facilitator. The Charter School shall have a strong focus on a positive school culture through a variety of strategies.

    b. The Charter School shall deliver instruction to students at a brick-and-mortar location for the number of school days of education required by O.C.G.A. 20-2-168(c) and SBOE Rule 160-5-1-.02 unless the Charter School receives advanced written approval from the SCSC Executive Director to deliver instruction through an alternate model for a specified number of school days. The SCSC Executive Director has sole discretion to evaluate and determine whether to approve a request from the Charter School pursuant to this paragraph.

6. Open Enrollment and Admissions. The Charter School shall comply with the open enrollment and admissions provisions set forth in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2066. Enrollment shall be open to any student in accordance with the following criteria:

    a. Attendance Zone. Enrollment shall be open to any grade level eligible student who resides in the Decatur County School District, Miller County School District, Seminole County School District, and Grady County School District attendance zones.

    b. Application. Prospective students must submit an application to the Charter School by the deadline set by the Charter School to be eligible for enrollment. The Charter School shall require proof of residency in the Attendance Zone at the time of application or enrollment.

    The application process must comply with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2066 and SCSC Rule 691-2-.05. The application shall only request information to identify the student and determine the grade to which the student will be enrolled, including the student's name and grade as well as basic contact information for the parent, such as a telephone number and email address. The Charter School may not use admissions criteria or applications that would not otherwise be used at a traditional public school, including requests for letters of recommendation, essays, resumes, or information regarding a student's school or community activities, grades, test scores, attendance record, or disciplinary history. The Charter School may gather other relevant information from students in compliance with applicable law after enrollment is determined.

c. Random Lottery. If the number of timely applicants received by the Charter School exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or building, the Charter School shall ensure that such applicants have an equal chance of being admitted through a random selection process in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2066(a)(1)(A) and SCSC Rule 691-2-.05. The Charter School shall not conduct more than one lottery per grade per admissions cycle.

d. Statutory Enrollment Priorities. In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2066(a)(1)(A) and SCSC Rule 691-2-.05, the Charter School may give enrollment priority to the following categories of applicants and in the following priority:
   i. A student whose parent or guardian is a member of the governing board of the Charter School or is a full-time teacher, professional, or other employee at the Charter School;
   ii. A sibling of a student enrolled in the Charter School; and
   iii. Children who matriculate from a pre-kindergarten program which is associated with the Charter School, including, but not limited to, programs which share common facilities or campuses with the school or programs which have established a partnership or cooperative efforts with the school.

e. Weighted Lottery. In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2066(a)(1)(A), the Charter School may implement a weighted lottery. Prior to publishing its weighted lottery procedures or implementing the weighted lottery, the Charter School shall obtain written approval from SCSC staff of its weighted lottery procedures and the subset(s) of educationally disadvantaged students to which the weighted lottery will apply.
   i. An increased chance of admission will be provided to at least one of the following subsets of educationally disadvantaged students with each subset as defined by the State Board in accordance with federal guidelines and regulations:
      1. Students who are economically disadvantaged;
      2. Student with disabilities;
      3. Limited English proficient students;
      4. Neglected or delinquent students; and
      5. Homeless students.
   ii. To facilitate the weighted lottery, applicants may indicate their educationally disadvantaged status on the admissions application and the Charter School shall verify this status as part of the registration process.
   iii. The Charter School shall make good faith efforts to confirm educationally disadvantaged status prior to the lottery, but shall not be required to re-administer the lottery or change a student's lottery status in the event any student's failure to provide appropriate documentation of such status results in a lower or higher percentage of educationally disadvantaged students being accepted into the Charter School.
   iv. The weight shall be calculated annually with the formula $W = (PA – PE) / (E – PE)$, provided however, the weight shall be no less than 4:1.
   v. The variables of the weighted lottery formula described above shall be defined as follows:

1. "P" shall be equal to the percentage of educationally disadvantaged students in the prioritized subset within the local school system in which the Charter School is located as measured by the Governor's Office of Student Achievement for the previous school year. In the event the percentage of educationally disadvantaged students in the local school system in which the Charter School is located is more than 50%, P shall not exceed 50%.
2. "A" shall be equal to the total number of Kindergarten applications from all students.
3. "E" shall be equal to the number of Kindergarten applications from students who qualify as educationally disadvantaged.

f.

g. Outreach and Marketing. The Charter School shall utilize reasonable outreach and marketing measures to make all potential applicants aware of opportunities for enrollment at the Charter School, including, but not limited to, seeking the enrollment of a cross section of the school-age population throughout the attendance zone, consistent with the requirements of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2066. The SCSC, upon a finding that the outreach and marketing measures taken by the Charter School are inconsistent with applicable law or the representations made by the Charter School in the Application and/or other representations or submissions to the SCSC, may require the Charter School to take further action, including but not limited to, requiring the Charter School to extend its enrollment period, delay or void its random lottery, and/or conduct further specified outreach and marketing steps.

f. Use of Parental Agreements for Withdrawal or Reenrollment. The Charter School may adopt policies setting forth parental volunteer or service expectations and may require parent to sign an acknowledgement of those expectations. The Charter School may not withdraw, decline to reenroll, or otherwise discipline a student for a parent's failure to meet such expectations. The Charter School may not communicate to a student or parent that it has the authority to withdraw, decline to reenroll, or otherwise discipline a student for a parent's failure to meet volunteer or service expectations.

g. Enrollment Opportunity. The Charter School shall also ensure open enrollment for each grade served for which space is available and shall not adopt any policy or practice that restricts enrollment to specific grade levels within the grade span served by the school or to a particular class of students served by the school. The Charter School must offer at least one annual enrollment opportunity for each grade served for which space is available.

7. Maximum Flexibility Allowed by Law. In exchange for the Charter School's agreement to meet or exceed the performance-based goals and measurable objectives set forth in Section 9 below, the SCSC grants the maximum flexibility allowed by law to the Charter School. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2065(a), the Charter School shall be entitled to the maximum flexibility allowed by law from the provisions of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated and from any state or local rule, regulation, policy, or procedure established by a local board of education, the SBOE, or the GaDOE. Notwithstanding this maximum flexibility, the Charter School shall comply with the terms of this Charter, the Charter Schools Act, including the provisions set forth in Section 16 below, and any rules, regulations, policies, or procedures established by the SCSC consistent with the Charter Schools Act.

8. Accreditation. The Charter School shall ensure that it is accredited in accordance with, and meets other requirements of, an eligible high school as defined in O.C.G.A. 20-3-519(6)(A) prior to any student's high school graduation from the Charter School.

9. Comprehensive Performance Framework and Performance Expectations.

   a. Incorporation Into Charter Contract.The Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) adopted by the SCSC shall be incorporated into the Charter as Exhibit A. The CPF shall supersede and replace any and all assessment measures, educational goals and objectives, financial operations metrics, and organizational performance metrics set forth in the Application and not explicitly incorporated into the CPF or this charter contract. The specific terms, forms and requirements of the CPF, including any required indicators, measures, metrics, and targets, are maintained and disseminated by the SCSC and will be binding on the Charter School. Material amendments to the CPF shall require approval by the SCSC and shall be automatically incorporated into this Charter Contract upon SCSC approval without further amendment to the Charter Contract. If such modifications or amendments are required, including modifications to address amended laws, the SCSC will use best efforts to apply expectations for school performance in a manner consistent with those set forth in the CPF.

   b. Monitoring and Reporting. In accordance with SCSC Rule 691-2-.03, the SCSC shall monitor the Charter School's progress in relation to the indicators, measures, metrics and targets set out in the CPF, as well as other applicable rules and laws. The SCSC shall publicly report the Charter School's achievement and compliance at least annually following the completion of the Charter School's first year of operation.

   c. Performance Expectations. **The Charter School's performance in relation to the indicators, measures, metrics and targets set forth in the CPF shall provide the basis upon which the SCSC will decide whether to renew the Charter School's Charter Contract at the end of the charter term. This section shall not preclude the SCSC from considering other relevant factors in making renewal decisions.**

   d. Mission-Specific Goals. The operational portion of the CPF incorporated as Exhibit A, holds the Charter School accountable for the following mission-specific goals, which may be amended through an administrative clarification:
      i. In each year of the charter term, 100% of K-11th grade students will be engaged in at least one collaborative, project-based, multi-disciplinary learning "Expedition".
      ii. During each year of the charter term, 100% of K-8th grade classrooms will engage in daily "Crew", a strategy for promoting a strong, positive school culture. High school will conduct weekly "Crew" at a minimum.

   e. Performance Review Presentations. In the event that the Charter School fails to meet standards in accordance with the CPF, the Charter School may be required to provide additional information or documentation regarding its performance to the SCSC or make an annual, in-person report to the SCSC Board ("Performance Review Presentation"). At least one Charter School governing board member and one Charter School staff member must attend an Annual Performance Review Presentation. Additional information, documentation or presentations must be in the form and manner as requested by the SCSC.

10. Assessment and Accountability. Notwithstanding Sections 7 and 9 above, the Charter School is subject to all accountability and assessment requirements set forth within Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated and any corresponding State Board Rules, including but not limited to the accountability provisions of O.C.G.A. §§ 20-14-30 through 41. The Charter School is further subject to all federal accountability requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, including its reauthorization as the Every Student Succeeds Act and any subsequent amendment thereto and provisions of state law or regulation that implement the federal law.

11. Annual Report. The Charter School shall submit an annual report by the deadline established by O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2067.1(c) of each year to the GaDOE and to the SCSC that complies with all requirements established by the GaDOE or applicable law.

12. Withdrawal Without Penalty. The Charter School shall comply with the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2066(d) for withdrawing students. The Charter School agrees that a student may withdraw without penalty from the Charter School at any time and enroll in another public school in the local school system in which such student resides.

13. State and Federally Mandated Educational Services.

a. Students with Disabilities. The Charter School shall comply with all federal education laws and regulations applicable to students with disabilities, including Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
b. English Language Learners. The Charter School shall comply with all applicable federal laws and regulations relating to the provision of education services to English Language Learners.
c. Supplemental Education. The Charter School shall provide supplemental education services in required cases pursuant to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, including its reauthorization as the Every Student Succeeds Act and any subsequent amendment thereto and provisions of state law or regulation that implement federal law.
d. Remediation. The Charter School shall provide remediation in required cases pursuant to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, including its reauthorization as the Every Student Succeeds Act and provisions of state law or regulation that implement federal law.

14. Governance Structure.

a. Governing Board. The Charter School shall utilize an autonomous governing body in the form of a governing board (Governing Board), which shall operate in accordance with its bylaws and which shall be responsible for complying with and carrying out the provisions of this Charter, including compliance with all applicable law. The Governing Board shall exercise substantive control over such areas as personnel decisions, financial decisions, curriculum and instruction, resource allocation, establishing and monitoring the achievement of school improvement goals, and school operations, which are listed by way of example and not by limitation.

b. Function. It shall be the function of the Governing Board to uphold the Charter School's mission and vision, to set policy for the Charter School, to work collaboratively with school officials to ensure the Charter School complies with the performance goals enumerated in Section 9 above, to ensure effective organizational planning, and to ensure financial stability of the Charter School.

c. Public Meetings.

   i. Open Meetings Act. The Governing Board is subject to and shall comply with the Open Meetings Act, O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 et seq., and any subsequent amendment thereof.

   ii. Regular Meetings. The Governing Board shall conduct regular meetings consistent with principles of transparency and avoid actual or apparent conflicts of interest in the governance of the Charter School. The Governing Board shall conduct no less than ten (10) regular meetings each state fiscal year.

   iii. Called Meetings with Less than 24 Hours' Notice. In addition to adhering to the specific notice requirements in the Open Meetings Act, if the Governing Board schedules a called meeting (i.e., a meeting that is not regularly scheduled) with less than twenty-four (24) hours' notice, the Governing Board shall also notify the SCSC Executive Director or his or her designee of the meeting via electronic mail or phone immediately after scheduling the called meeting.

   iv. The Governing Board shall not vote on any official business, policy or public matter by e-mail.

d. Public Records and Transparency. The Governing Board is subject to and shall comply with the Open Records Act, O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70 *et seq.,* and any subsequent amendment thereof. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70(b)(2) the Governing Board shall ensure that all public records that are maintained or received by a private person or entity in the performance of a service or function for or on behalf of the Charter School are available to the public in the same manner and extent as records collected or maintained by the Charter School. The Governing Board shall maintain its adopted policies, budgets, meeting agendas and minutes, financial audits, and annual reports, and shall make such documents available for public inspection. Additionally, to promote transparency, the Charter School shall ensure that the following information, at a minimum, is easily accessible on the Charter School's website:
   i. Governing Board membership;
   ii. Governing Board meeting calendar;
   iii. Meeting agendas for upcoming Governing Board meetings;

iv. Meeting minutes for past Governing Board meetings unless the Georgia Open Meetings Act limits their publication;
v. Procedure for contacting School Leader;
vi. Procedure for contacting the Governing Board;
vii. Any admissions application utilized by the school;
viii. Notification of enrollment and admission procedures required by SCSC Rule 691-2-.05, including the date, time, and location of any upcoming enrollment lottery;
ix. Annual operating budget or summary thereof as required by O.C.G.A. § 20-2-167.1; and
x. The Charter School's charter contract.

e. Communication with Stakeholders. The Charter School, including the Governing Board and School Leader, must communicate in a timely manner with stakeholders, including, but not limited to: the SCSC, families, students, and other government agencies. The Governing Board or School Leader must use all reasonable efforts to promptly and expeditiously respond to and address stakeholder communications, complaints, and requests for information received via the procedures listed in Paragraph 14(d).

f. Governing Board Eligibility
   i. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2084(e), all members of the Governing Board shall be United States citizens, residents of Georgia, and shall not be employees of the Charter School.
   ii. No person who has an immediate family member sitting on the Governing Board or serving as the Charter School's superintendent, Head of School, principal, assistant principal, or administrative staff can serve on the Governing Board unless the person discloses the conflict to the Governing Board in a writing wherein he or she agrees to recuse themselves from any discussion and/or Commission action regarding the immediate family member, and the Governing Board agrees to waiver of this provision in a public meeting. Immediate family member means a spouse, child, sibling, or parent or the spouse of a child, sibling or parent.

g. Conflicts of Interest. The Governing Board shall establish a formal policy to prevent and disclose conflicts of interest and comply with the requirements of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2084(e) and this Charter. Members of the Governing Board and all individuals employed at the Charter School shall abide by such conflicts of interest policy. Upon request, the Charter School shall provide conflict of interest forms to the SCSC demonstrating that governing board members are in compliance with the conflicts of interest policy.

h. Public Status. Petitioner assures that the Charter School shall be a public, nonsectarian, nonreligious, nonprofit school organized and operated under the laws of the State of Georgia. Petitioner further assures that the Charter School shall not be home-based; however, this does not preclude the Charter School from using virtual-based instruction in a remote setting.

i. Director Compensation. No member of the Governing Board shall receive compensation for his or her service on the Governing Board in excess of reasonable expenses incurred in connection with actual attendance at board meetings or with performance of duties associated therewith.

j. Contractual Interference. No party to this Charter may interfere with the legal right(s) and/or obligation(s) of another party to execute the provisions of this Charter.

15. Fiscal Control.

a. Financial Reporting Requirements. The Charter School shall follow the financial requirements of the GaDOE's Financial Management for Georgia Local Units of Administration Manual for all funds received by the Charter School. This expressly includes, but is not limited to, developing and adhering to financial policies, preparing and adhering to operating budgets, accounting procedures, managing cash and investments, and segregation of duties and internal controls. The Charter School shall submit all information required by the State Accounting Office for inclusion in the State of Georgia Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

b. Annual Audit. The Charter School shall have an annual financial audit conducted by an independent certified public accountant licensed in the State of Georgia and submit its annual financial audit to the SCSC by November 1 each year or as otherwise required by applicable law. If the Charter School does not meet standards on the financial or operational sections of the CPF in the previous year, the SCSC may require the Charter School to utilize an independent certified public accountant selected by the SCSC to perform the subsequent year's annual audit.

c. Financially At-Risk Schools.
   i. If the Charter School does not meet standards on the financial section of the CPF and/or circumstances at the Charter School indicate that its ability to manage funds may be compromised, the Charter School may be designated as financially at-risk and require more frequent financial monitoring. The nature of the additional financial monitoring will be determined by the SCSC Executive Director or designee.
   ii. If at any time during the charter term the SCSC determines that the Charter School has a negative cash balance or an unrestricted days cash of less than fifteen (15) days, the Charter School may be required to submit a financial risk-avoidance plan, monthly SCSC Fiscal Compliance Template reports and monthly bank statements from all banks utilized by the Charter School. Submission shall be in the form and manner specified by the SCSC Executive Director or designee.
   iii. This subsection shall not be construed to limit any other SCSC authority to require the Charter School to submit additional financial reports unrelated to financial at-risk monitoring or deficit reduction.

d. Chief Financial Officer. The Charter School shall designate a Chief Financial Officer. The Chief Financial Officer may be a contractor rather than a school employee; however, the SCSC will hold the Charter School accountable for all financial operations of the Charter School. The Chief Financial Officer shall possess the following minimum qualifications:

   i. A baccalaureate or higher degree in business, accounting, or finance from an accredited college or university and a minimum of four (4) years' experience in a field related to business or finance; or

   ii. Documented experience of ten (10) or more years in the field of business and financial management.

e. Federal Monitoring Requirements. The Charter School shall comply with all federal monitoring requirements related to the receipt of federal funds.

f. Charter School Program Eligibility. In the event the Charter School seeks grant funds under the Federal Charter School Program, the Charter School must satisfy all federal eligibility requirements as a prerequisite to applying for and receiving such funds.

g. Insurance. Prior to opening, the Charter School shall secure adequate insurance coverage and the Charter School shall maintain such coverage throughout the charter term in accordance with the laws of the State of Georgia.

h. Surplus Funds. Under no circumstances shall any surplus funds be distributed to the Charter School's board member(s), educational service provider or educational management organization. This subsection shall be construed consistent with the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-167(a)(5).

i. Responsibility for Debts. The Charter School is solely responsible for all debts incurred by the Charter School and its Governing Board. Except as agreed hereto, the SCSC shall not be contractually bound to the Charter School or to any third party with whom the Charter School has a contract or from whom the Charter School has purchased goods or services.

j. Distribution of Funds and Assets. If the SCSC terminates the Charter or the Charter expires, the Governing Board shall conclude the business and affairs of the Charter School and cooperate with the SCSC to the extent necessary to provide an orderly return of the students to their local school. The Charter School shall remit any surplus or unencumbered funds derived from state or federal grants existing as of the effective date of termination or expiration, and any furniture, equipment or other assets purchased with state or federal grant funds, to the SCSC in the manner specified by SCSC within sixty (60) days of the closure date. The SCSC is not responsible for the Charter School's unpaid debts in the event the Charter School does not have sufficient funds to pay all of its debts as of the closure date.

k. Preference in Contracting. The Charter school shall give preference in contracting and purchasing of services and materials to businesses identified in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2084(d)(2).

l. Acquiring Debt. The Charter School shall inform the SCSC Executive Director before acquiring debt with a repayment schedule that exceeds the length of the current charter term, including but not limited to: monies derived from loans from financial institutions or through the sale of bonds.

m. Inventory. The Charter School shall manage and maintain an inventory list of assets purchased with state funds as required by the SCSC.

16. Compliance with Other Laws, Rules, and Regulations. The Charter School shall operate in accordance with the United States Constitution, the Constitution of the State of Georgia, and all applicable federal, state, and local laws that may not be waived pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2065, including, but not limited to, the following provisions:

a. Civil Rights, Insurance, Health, Safety, and Conflicting Interests. The Charter School shall operate in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local rules, regulations, court orders and statutes relating to civil rights; insurance; the protection of the physical health and safety of students, employees, and visitors; conflicting interest transactions and the prevention of unlawful conduct.

b. Asbestos Remediation. The Charter School shall comply with the terms of any applicable asbestos remediation plan.

c. Unlawful Conduct. The Charter School shall be subject to all laws relating to unlawful conduct in or near a public school.

d. Student Conduct and Discipline. The Charter School shall maintain and implement a written policy regarding student discipline, which policy shall be consistent with due process.

e. State Board of Education Rules. The Charter School shall operate in accordance with all SBOE Rules promulgated in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-240 during the term herein that are not subject to any waiver granted in Section 7 above.

f. Prohibition on Discrimination. The Charter School shall not discriminate against students on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, gender, national origin, religion, ancestry, marital status, academic ability, the need for special educational services, or any other characteristic protected by local, state, or federal law.

g. Reporting Requirements. The Charter School shall be subject to all reporting requirements of O.C.G.A. §§ 20-2-160, 20-2-161(e), 20-2-320, and 20-2-740.

h. Tuition. The Charter School shall not charge tuition or fees to its students except as may be authorized for local boards pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-133.

i. Brief Period of Quiet Reflection. The Charter School shall comply with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1050, which requires a brief period of quiet reflection.

j. Individual Graduation Plans. The Charter school shall comply with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-327 related to Individual Graduation Plans.

k. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. The Charter School is subject to all provisions of the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g. In the event the Charter School closes, it shall transmit all official student records in the manner prescribed by the State Board.

l. QBE Formula Earnings. The Charter School acknowledges that criteria used to calculate Quality Basic Education (QBE) funding may not be waived.

m. School Nursing Program. The Charter School shall implement a nursing program in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-771.2.

n. Student Fees and Charges. The Charter School shall comply with SBOE Rule 160-5-1-.12 to preserve the rights of students regarding payments and fees.

17. SCSC Administrative Withhold: Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2089, the SCSC is authorized to withhold up to three (3) percent of the Charter School's funds received through O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2089(a)(1) for administering the duties required of the SCSC pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2083.

    a. Return of SCSC Administrative Withhold Funds. Upon satisfaction of annually budgeted expenses, the SCSC may vote to return any surplus funds from its authorized administrative withhold to its Charter Schools on a pro rata basis. The SCSC does not guarantee any surplus of funds.

    b. Restrictions on Returned SCSC Administrative Withhold Funds. Pursuant to a vote by the SCSC, the SCSC may place reasonable restrictions on any returned administrative withhold funds for reasons including, but not limited to, the failure to meet performance expectations based on the CPF and material breaches of its Charter Contract.

18. Education Service Providers. If the Charter School elects to contract or amend a contract with an Education Service Provider at any point during the term of the Charter, the Charter School shall seek and

receive approval of the contract or amendment from the SCSC Executive Director prior to the execution of the contract or amendment.

19. Compliance with the Rules, Practices, Policies, and Procedures of the SCSC. The Charter School shall operate in accordance with SCSC rules, practices, policies, and procedures established under the authority granted by O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2080 *et seq.* This Charter is deemed automatically amended to reflect applicable changes or additions to SCSC rules, practices, policies, and procedures upon their effective date.

20. Employment Matters. Individuals employed at the Charter School shall not be considered employees of the State Board, Department, or the SCSC.

    a. Criminal Record Checks. The Charter School shall adopt criminal record check procedures. The Charter School shall comply with all provisions of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-211.1 relating to fingerprint and criminal record checks for all prospective staff members or any individual that will have substantial contact with students prior to beginning work at the Charter School or having contact with students.

    b. Clearance Certificates. The Charter School shall comply with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-211.1 which requires all teachers, school administrators, and other education personnel employed by a local unit of administration to hold a valid clearance certificate issued by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC).

    c. Teachers' Retirement System. All qualified teachers at the Charter School shall be members of the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia ("TRS") and subject to its requirements. The Charter School is responsible for making arrangements with TRS and making monthly contributions for its teachers in accordance with state requirements. For the purposes of this subsection, the term "teacher" shall have the definition provided in O.C.G.A. § 47-3-1.

    d. Employment Preference. The Charter School shall comply with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2084(d)(1) regarding employment preference. The Charter School shall maintain and provide the SCSC, upon request, documentation to support the Charter School's compliance with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2084(d)(1), including but not limited to: all advertisements for open positions, resumes received by the Charter School and records of interviews conducted by the Charter School. The Charter School shall not use third-party contractors to circumvent the requirements of this subsection.

    e. Performance Evaluation System. The Charter School shall utilize the performance evaluation system adopted by the State Board pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-210 for all personnel for which it is required by rule or law, including personnel employed by an educational management organization or other educational service provider. At least two individuals employed by the Charter School shall be credentialed to administer the teacher evaluation system. At least two (2) individuals employed by the Charter School or on the Charter School Governing Board shall be credentialed to administer the leader evaluation system. The Charter School may not delegate the

evaluation of its School Leader to any individual or entity who is not a member of the Charter School Governing Board.

f. School Personnel. Teachers and other instructional staff and faculty must be employees of the Governing Board and may not be employed by an Educational Service Provider or other entity affiliated with an Educational Service Provider except as permitted by O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2084(h). The School Leader may be employed by an Educational Service Provider only if the Governing Board retains the authority to select and dismiss that individual from service at the Charter School. Non-instructional staff, such as the Chief Financial Officer, business manager, bookkeeper, and maintenance personnel, may be employed by entities other than the Governing Board; however, the Governing Board shall remain responsible and accountable for all operations, compliance, and performance of any and all selected contractors. The Governing Board shall ensure that the School Leader establishes a regular and ongoing physical presence in the school that allows the individual to oversee daily operations.

21. Record Inspection. Subject to state and federal laws, the SBOE, the GaDOE and their agents, the SCSC and their agents and the State Auditor's office shall have the right to examine and copy all records, reports, documents, and files relating to any activity, program, or student of the Charter School. Any records maintained by a vendor for the services it performs on behalf of the Charter School that relate to school-level operations (such as personnel and financial records) shall be available free of charge or fee for immediate access by the school as well as the State Board, Department, SCSC, and State Auditor in accordance with this section.

22. Records. The Charter School shall adopt a records retention policy consistent with retention schedules published by Georgia Archives and comply with the requirements of SBOE Rule 160-5-1-.14 "Transfer of Student Records" and accompanying guidance.

23. Facilities. The Charter School shall comply with SCSC Rule 691-2-.06 State Charter School Sites and Facilities and the following requirements:

a. Reserved.

b. Approval of Site and/or Facility. The Charter School shall adhere to the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE)'s requirements or guidelines for site and facility approval, including but not limited to the GaDOE Guideline for Educational Facility Site Selection. If the Charter School contracts with an architect, construction manager, or other construction professional to manage the site or facility selection and development process, the SCSC will continue to hold the Charter School accountable to the requirements in this Charter. The Charter School shall contact the GaDOE Facilities Services Division regarding the following:

i. Site Code. The Charter School shall contact the Facilities Services Division to obtain site approval as soon as practicable. Failure to provide at least a six (6) months' notice to the

Facilities Services Division prior to student occupation of the site or facility may delay the date that students can start occupying the site or facility. Once site approval has been granted, the Facilities Services Division will issue the Charter School a site code.

ii. Architectural Review. The Charter School shall submit and have approved by the Facilities Services Division all architectural plans for any facility that will house the Charter School during the charter term.

iii. School Code. The Charter School shall contact GaDOE and request a school code after securing both a site code and facility code. The Charter School shall obtain a school code prior to student occupation of the site or facility.

24. Transportation. To the extent the Charter School offers a transportation program for its students, the Charter School shall ensure that the program complies with all applicable laws governing transportation of students.

25. Food Services. To the extent the Charter School offers a food service program, the Charter School shall ensure that the program complies with all applicable laws governing food service for students.

26. Projected Enrollment. For the purpose of funding students enrolled in the Charter School each year the Charter School offers a new grade level, the Charter School may be required to provide the SCSC a projected student enrollment count that includes prospective student names, Georgia Testing Identifier (GTID), if available, and any other information as requested by the SCSC. The Charter School shall provide this information by the deadline established by the SCSC and in the form and manner as requested by the SCSC. The information provided by the Charter School pursuant to this section may be verified by the SCSC through an onsite visit or by other means.

27. Data Collections. The Charter School assumes sole responsibility for accurate and timely collection and transmission of required data submissions to the SCSC and other government agencies, including but not limited to: the GaDOE, the Georgia Professional Standards Commission, and the United States Department of Education. The Charter School shall utilize a Student Information System that is compatible with the system utilized by the GaDOE. Upon signature of the charter contract, the Charter School affirms its understanding that inaccurate or untimely data may have an adverse impact to the academic, financial and operational standing of the school and further affirms its understanding that the SCSC does not guarantee any opportunity or ability to correct any data reporting errors made by the Charter School.

28. Required Trainings.

a. Data Collections Conference. The Charter School shall send at least one representative to the annual Data Collections Conference held by the GaDOE or by a third party on behalf of GaDOE each year of the Charter School's charter term.

b. Federal Programs Conference. In each year the Charter School accepts federal funds from the United States Department of Education, the Charter School shall send at least one representative to the annual Federal Programs Conference held by the GaDOE.

c. Governance Training. Each member of the Governing Board shall fulfill all training requirements required by rule and law, including the annual governance training obligation required by O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2084(f) and SCSC Rule 691-2-.03(4).

29. Termination of Charter.

a. Termination Procedures. The parties acknowledge and agree that this Charter may be terminated following the procedures set forth in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2068, any applicable rule of the State Board, or SCSC Rule 691-2-.04.

b. Grounds for Termination. The Charter School acknowledges that this Charter may be terminated for any reason set forth in law or any applicable rule of the State Board or SCSC, including, but not limited to:

i. The Charter School's failure to comply with any material provision set forth in this Charter, provided that they shall be notified by certified mail and be given thirty (30) days from receipt of notice to cure the breach. The nature and outcome of the breach shall be memorialized and maintained by the SCSC in accordance with applicable record retention schedules;

ii. The Charter School's failure to comply with any recommendation or direction of the State Board with respect to O.C.G.A. § 20-14-41;

iii. The Charter School's failure to adhere to any material term of this Charter, including but not limited to the performance goals set forth in Section 9 above;

iv. The Charter School's failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management;

v. The Charter School's violation of applicable federal, state, or local laws, or court orders;

vi. The existence of competent substantial evidence that the continued operation of the Charter School would be contrary to the best interests of the students or the community;

vii. The Charter School's failure to comply with any provision of the Charter Schools Act; or

viii. The existence of conditions that place the health, safety, or welfare of students or staff of the Charter School in danger.

30. School Closure. In the event the school ceases operations, either through non-renewal, early termination, voluntary closure, or other means, the school must, at minimum, take the following actions:

a. Student Transition Plan. The Charter School shall create a transition plan to facilitate its students' transition to other educational institutions. The transition plan shall outline various educational options available to students, including traditional public schools, locally approved charter schools, state charter schools, and private educational options. The transition plan shall include protocols to ensure the appropriate transfer of student records. The Charter School shall provide the transition plan to the SCSC and parents of enrolled students within fourteen (14) calendar days of its decision to cease operations or the SCSC's decision to terminate or non-renew the Charter School's charter contract;

b. School Records. The Petitioner shall retain ownership, including all incumbent responsibilities of an operational state charter school, of all records for a period of one year from the later of the date the charter contract expired, the date the charter contract was terminated, or the date the state charter school ceased operations. Incumbent responsibilities include, but are not limited to, transferring student records to public or private schools, schools operated by the Department of Juvenile Justice, and the local school system or schools from which the records are requested. After the one-year period, the Petitioner shall transfer all records, including student records, to the SCSC in the format and manner specified by the SCSC;

c. School Website. The Charter School shall maintain the website of the Charter School for a minimum of twelve (12) months from the date education operations cease. For the purposes of this section, education operations mean any period during which instruction is provided by the Charter School to enrolled students. At minimum, the website shall include contact information and instructions regarding requests for student and employee records;

d. Notification. The Charter School shall make reasonable efforts to inform stakeholders of the school's closure, including the staff and parents, general public, appropriate local districts, and creditors;

e. Closure Monitor. The SCSC Executive Director will appoint an individual to monitor the closure activities of Charter School ("Closure Monitor") within fourteen (14) calendar days of its decision to cease operations or the SCSC's decision to terminate or non-renew the school's charter contract. The SCSC shall be responsible for all costs and expenses of the Closure Monitor;

f. Duties of Closure Monitor. The Charter School shall remain responsible for fulfilling all legal and contractual duties, including those arising from this Charter. The role of the Closure Monitor shall be to review the Charter School's actions to conclude its financial affairs, settlement of accounts, disposition of assets, return of surplus to the SCSC, and provision for maintaining student, employee, and school records in accordance with applicable retention schedules beyond the operation of the Charter School. The Closure Monitor shall notify the SCSC of any action taken by the Charter School that is inconsistent with the its legal or contractual obligations. The Charter School shall allow the Closure Monitor access to all records, reports, documents, and files pertaining to any activity or program of the Charter School;

g. Closure Process. The Charter School shall align closure activities to the SCSC Closure Guide in a form and manner as requested by the SCSC to ensure orderly closure of the Charter School; and

h. Surety. The Charter School shall maintain a surety bond throughout the entirety of its charter term and six months following the conclusion of the charter term to assure the faithful performance of the duties of the school and its employees, including the fulfillment of Charter School's obligations in closing the financial affairs in the event the school ceases operation. The bond shall be in an amount no less than $100,000 to be payable to the State of Georgia through the State Charter Schools Commission. The bond shall be furnished by a company authorized to do business in Georgia. The provisions of this subsection shall not be interpreted to preclude Charter School from obtaining liability insurance coverage or surety or fidelity bonds in addition to or in excess of the requirements of this subsection.

31. Reserved.

32. Renewal, Non-Renewal, and Probationary Term.

a. Renewal. The Charter may be renewed by agreement of the parties following the procedures set forth in the Charter Schools Act and accompanying SCSC Rule. The parties recognize that the renewal process will commence prior to the conclusion of the final year of the charter term and, as a result, the SCSC renewal decision will likely not include student achievement and school operational data from the final year of the charter term.

b. Non-Renewal. Any grounds for termination stated in Section 25b above also may be grounds for non-renewal. In addition, the SCSC may elect not to renew the Charter if the petition for renewal does not comply with the Charter Schools Act and the rules, regulations, policies, and procedures promulgated in accordance with the Charter Schools Act or if the SCSC deems that the Charter School has not sufficiently increased student achievement or is no longer in the public interest notwithstanding the Charter School's performance on the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework.

c. Probationary Term. In the event the SCSC determines that the Charter School has failed to comply with any provision of this Charter, the SCSC may elect to grant a renewal for a probationary term, within which term the Charter School must come into compliance satisfactory to the SCSC.

33. Temporary Extension. At the discretion of the SCSC, this Charter may be extended for a grace period not exceeding sixty (60) days.

34. Amendments to the Charter. The terms of this Charter may be amended upon approval by the SCSC and a majority of the Governing Board of the Charter School. The Charter School shall submit a written request to amend the Charter to the SCSC in the form and manner required by the SCSC. Except as explicitly permitted in this Charter, no amendments are valid or effective unless in writing and signed by both parties.

35. Administrative Clarifications. Any clarification to a non-material term of this Charter, as determined by the SCSC, shall be submitted in writing to the SCSC for review. Any non-material term of this Charter may be clarified in writing by SCSC staff.

36. Indemnification.

a. The Charter School agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the GaDOE, the SCSC, and the State Board, their officials, officers, employees, agents, volunteers, and assigns (all of whom hereinafter may collectively be referred to as "Indemnitees"), from any and all claims, demands, suits, actions, legal or administrative proceedings, losses, liabilities, costs, interest, and damages of every kind and description, including any attorneys' fees and/or litigation and investigative expenses, for bodily injury, personal injury, (including but not limited to the Charter School's employees), patent, copyright, or infringement on any intellectual property rights, or loss or destruction of property (including loss of use, damage or destruction of Indemnitee owned property) to the extent that any such claim or suit was caused by, arose out of, or contributed to, in whole or in part, by reason of any act, omission, professional error, fault, mistake, or negligence whether active, passive or imputed, of the Charter School, their employees, agents, representatives, or subcontractors, their employees, agents, or representatives in connection with or incidental to their performance of this Charter regardless of whether such liability, claim, damage, loss, cost or expense is caused in part by an Indemnitee.

b. The Charter School shall be excused from their indemnification obligations above: (a) If the claims, demands, suits, actions, proceedings, losses, liabilities arise solely and exclusively out of the negligence of the Indemnitee seeking indemnification; or (b) If the Indemnitee fails to (i) provide written notice of the third party claim or suit within a reasonable time, (ii) cooperate with reasonable requests of the Charter School related to the indemnification; or (iii) assist the Charter School with the defense of such claim or suit.

c. The Charter School's obligations to indemnify any Indemnitee shall survive the completion, expiration, or termination of this Agreement for any reason.

37. Non-Agency. The parties expressly acknowledge and agree that the Charter School is not acting as the agent of the State Board, Department, or SCSC except as required by law or this Charter. The Charter School acknowledges that it is without authority to, and will not, extend the faith and credit of the State Board, Department or SCSC to any third party.

38. Delegation. The Charter School acknowledges and agrees that the functions and powers provided for in this charter may be exercised only by the Charter School and may not be delegated to a third party without written agreement by the parties.

39. Assignment. This Charter shall not be assigned or transferred by the Charter School unless consented to in writing by the SCSC.

40. Third-Party Beneficiaries. There are no third-party beneficiaries to this Charter. The Charter School's staff, students, parents, or related organizations are not beneficiaries to this Charter.

41. Application of Amended Law. This Charter is subject to applicable federal and state laws, rules and regulations and shall be deemed amended to reflect applicable changes to those laws upon the effective date of any such change.

42. Non-Waiver. Except as specifically provided for in a written waiver signed by the parties, failure by either party at any time to require performance or claim a breach of this Charter does not constitute a waiver or affect the party's right to require performance or claim a breach of this Charter.

43. Severability. If any provision of this Charter is determined to be unenforceable or invalid for any reason, the remainder of the Charter shall remain in full force and effect.

44. Contradicting or Conflicting Provisions. If any provision of the Charter is determined to contradict or conflict with any other provision of the Charter, the contradiction or conflict shall be resolved in favor of the broad flexibility guaranteed pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2065 *et seq.*

45. Governing Law and Venue. This Charter shall be governed by, subject to, and construed under the laws of the State of Georgia. This Charter shall be interpreted in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 20-2-2060 *et seq.* and §§ 20-2-2080 *et seq.*, as amended within the term of this Charter. Any action brought by one party to this Charter against another party shall be brought in the Superior Court of Fulton County.

46. Survival. Charter School will continue to be subject to the following obligations after this Charter terminates or expires: Paragraphs 15 ("Fiscal Control"), 21 ("Record Inspection"), 27 ("Data Collections"), 30 ("School Closure") and 36 ("Indemnification").

47. Entire Agreement. This Charter sets forth the entire agreement between the Petitioner, and the SCSC with respect to the subject matter of this Charter. All prior contracts, representations, statements, negotiations, understandings, and undertakings between the Petitioner and the SCSC are superseded by this Charter. The Charter shall not preclude the Charter School from entering into or maintaining any agreement with the Local Board provided no such agreement supersedes, overrides or conflicts with any provision of this Charter. The petition submitted to the SCSC serves only as the formal application for the Charter School and does not constitute a contract between the SCSC and the Petitioner. This Charter supersedes and overrides any provisions contained in the petition that conflict with this Charter.

Michael Dudgeon (Apr 8, 2025 09:45 EDT) 04/08/2025

Mike Dudgeon, Chairperson (Date)
STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION OF GEORGIA

Lindsey Hixon
Lindsey Hixon (Apr 7, 2025 21:37 EDT) 04/07/2025

Lindsey Hixon, Governing Board President (Date)
PATAULA CHARTER ACADEMY, INC.

Exhibit A

COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

for State Charter School Evaluation

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OVERVIEW:
Comprehensive Performance Framework for State Charter Schools

PURPOSE

Quality charter school authorizers establish standards for school performance that are clear, quantifiable, rigorous, and attainable. The SCSC Performance Framework includes academic, financial, and organizational performance measures that establish expectations, guide practice, assess progress, and inform decision making over the course of the charter term and at renewal or revocation.

The three areas of performance covered by the frameworks—academic achievement, financial management, and organizational compliance— correspond directly with the three components of a strong charter school application and are the three areas on which a charter school's performance should be evaluated. In each of the three areas, the framework asks a fundamental question:

- Academic Performance: Is the charter school offering students a better educational opportunity than they would otherwise receive at the traditional local school?
- Financial Performance: Is the charter school fiscally viable and responsible?
- Organizational Performance: Is the organization effective, compliant, and well-run?

Exhibit A

SECTION I: ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION

Is the charter school offering students a better educational opportunity than they would otherwise receive at the traditional local school?

INDICATORS

To answer the above question, the SCSC uses performance metrics derived from:

- the College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI), the statewide accountability tool. The CCRPI includes a content mastery component that assesses student proficiency and a progress component that uses student growth percentiles to assess student growth, among other measures. And from,
- The Value-Added Model, a statistical predictive measure that considers a student's individual characteristics and the school's student body makeup.

MEETING GOALS

A state charter school can meet annual SCSC academic accountability standards by outperforming its comparison zone, the school/districts from which its students are zoned to attend, in terms of student achievement or growth as measured by CCRPI Content Mastery, CCRPI Progress, CCRPI Grade Band Score, or Value-Added Model impact scores.

A state charter school only needs to outperform one of the comparison zones [schools or district(s)] on Indicator 1, Grade Band Measures, or one of the measures included in Indicator 2, Schoolwide Measures, not both, in order to receive an overall Meets designation for a given year.

SECTION I: OVERALL DETERMINATION OF COMPLIANCE

As measured by the indicators and measures set forth in this section, is the school meeting academic performance standards?

SCORING CATEGORIES:

Exceeds Standards	**Outperforms its comparison zone by 10 or points**
Meets Standards	**Outperforms its comparison zone**
Approaches Standards	**Performs as well as its comparison zone**
Does Not Meet Standards	**Performs below its comparison zone**

Exhibit A

INDICATOR PERFORMANCE

SECTION I, INDICATOR 1: GRADE BAND MEASURES

All state charter schools must demonstrate their ability to positively impact students' academic performance either through high levels of achievement or growth across all grade bands served.

Measure	Designation Earned	Explanation
CCRPI Content Mastery	i.e. MEETS	*Exceeds Standard:* The state charter school's score is 10 or more points higher than the comparison zone [the schools/districts from which its students are zoned to attend] on any one or combination of the academic measures in all grade bands served. *Meets Standard:* The state charter school's score is 1 to 9 points higher than the comparison zone [the schools/districts from which its students are zoned to attend] on any one or combination of the academic measures in all grade bands served. *Approaches Standard:* The state charter school' score is no more than 2 points below the comparison zone [the schools/districts from which its students are zoned to attend] on any one or combination of the academic measures in all grade bands served. *Does Not Meet Standard:* The state charter school's score is more than 2 points below the comparison zone [the schools/districts from which its students are zoned to attend] on any one or combination of academic measures in all grade bands served.
CCRPI Progress		
CCRPI Grade Band		
Value-Added Model		

Exhibit A

SECTION I, INDICATOR 2: SCHOOLWIDE MEASURES

All state charter schools must demonstrate their ability to positively impact students' academic performance either through high levels of achievement or growth across all students served.

Measure	Designation Earned	Explanation
• CCRPI Content Mastery- Whole School Score	i.e. MEETS	*Exceeds Standard:* The state charter school's score is 10 or more points higher than the comparison zone [the schools/districts from which its students are zoned to attend] on any one of the schoolwide academic measures. *Meets Standard:* The state charter school's score is 1 to 9 points higher than the comparison zone [the schools/districts from which its students are zoned to attend] on any one of the schoolwide academic measures. *Approaches Standard:* The state charter school's score is no more than 2 points below the comparison zone [the schools/districts from which its students are zoned to attend] on any one of the schoolwide academic measures. *Does Not Meet Standard:* The state charter school's score is more than 2 points below the comparison zone [the schools/districts from which its students are zoned to attend] on any of the schoolwide academic measures.
• CCRPI Progress- Whole School Score		
• CCRPI Grade Band- Whole School Score		

Exhibit A

CALCULATION METHODS

<table>
<tr><th>Score</th><th>Calculation Explained</th></tr>
<tr><td>District Comparison Zone Score</td><td>This score is calculated based on the proportion of students the state charter school enrolls from each district served. If a school serves a single district, it is compared to that district's score because 100% of students enrolled in the state charter school are zoned to attend that district. However, if a state charter school serves multiple districts or has a statewide attendance zone, a weighted comparison score is generated based on the proportion of students the state charter school enrolls from each district. For instance, if a state charter school enrolls 80% of its students from District A and 20% from District B, then the comparison score will comprise 80% of District A's CCRPI score and 20% of District B's CCRPI score. The SCSC uses the GaDOE Data Collections Student Record report to determine district enrollment proportions.</td></tr>
<tr><td>School Comparison Zone Score</td><td>This score is calculated based on the proportion of students the state charter school enrolls from each local school attendance zone served. The student-level address element in the GaDOE Data Collections Student Record report is used to determine which school each student enrolled in a state charter school is zoned to attend [the school the student would attend if they were not enrolled in the charter school]. The SCSC weights those schools' CCRPI scores based on the proportion of students enrolled. This is the same process that is used to generate the District Comparison Zone Scores, just at the more granular, school level.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Whole School Score</td><td>This score is calculated based on the proportion of students the state charter school enrolls in each grade band served. For instance, if a state charter school serves grades K-8 and enrolls 60% of its students in the elementary grade band and 40% of its students in the middle-grade band, then the Whole School Score is 60% of the school's elementary school score plus 40% of the school's middle school score. The state charter school's score is then compared to the same weighting of the District Comparison Zone Score and the School Comparison Zone Score. For state charter schools that serve across grade bands, this measure seeks to determine whether, as a whole, the school is providing a better opportunity for most students. The SCSC uses the GaDOE Data Collections FTE-3 report to determine district enrollment proportions.</td></tr>
<tr><td>CCPRI Grade Band Score</td><td>This score is calculated using the CCRPI Scoring by Component data file published by GaDOE annually and by following the grade band score calculation methodology as described in the 2019 CCRPI Calculation Guide[1]. Specifically, each CCRPI Component is weighted and combined into an overall score by grade band. The table below displays the weights by component and grade band.
<table>
<tr><th></th><th>Elementary</th><th>Middle</th><th>High</th></tr>
<tr><td>Content Mastery</td><td>30%</td><td>30%</td><td>30%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Progress</td><td>35%</td><td>35%</td><td>30%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Closing Gaps</td><td>15%</td><td>15%</td><td>10%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Readiness</td><td>20%</td><td>20%</td><td>15%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Graduation Rate</td><td>--</td><td>--</td><td>15%</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
</table>

All scores are calculated to the nearest whole number.

[1] The 2018-2019 school year was the last year that GaDOE calculated overall school scores.

Exhibit A

SECTION II: FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION

Is the charter school fiscally viable and responsible?

INDICATORS

To answer whether the school is fiscally viable, the SCSC assesses a state charter school's performance on both near-term financial health and long-term financial sustainability measures using data derived from each school's independent financial audit. Near-term measures are designed to depict the school's financial position and viability in the upcoming year. Sustainability measures are used to determine a charter school's ability to cover long-term obligations and control costs effectively over time.

To answer whether the school is fiscally responsible, the SCSC assesses a state charter school's performance on both fiscal management and oversight measures using data derived from annual monitoring practices and SCSC and GaDOE enrollment data collections. Fiscal management and oversight measures are used to evaluate a charter school's ability to comply with relevant rules and laws, manage funds responsibly, and provide a more qualitative look at performance irrespective of near-term and long-term calculations.

MEETING GOALS

A state charter school can satisfy annual financial accountability requirements by earning at least 80 points across the near-term and sustainability measures and at least 80 points across the oversight and management measures. In other words, a state charter school must earn a "Meets Standards" designation on both Indicator 1 and Indicator 2 in order to receive an overall "Meets Financial Standards" designation for a given year. Indicators 1 and 2 are calculated separately, and both add up to 100 points independently.

If a school earns below 70 points (a Does Not Meet rating) on both Indicator 1 and Indicator 2, it will be designated as "Does Not Meet" financial standards. Any other combination of points/ratings will result in an "Approaches Standards" designation in the financial section of the CPF for the given year.

SECTION II: DETERMINATION OF COMPLIANCE

As measured by the indicators and measures set forth in this section, is the school meeting financial performance standards?

SCORING CATEGORIES:

Meets Standards	80-100 points
Approaches Standards	70-79 points
Does Not Meet Standards	0-69 points

Exhibit A

INDICATOR PERFORMANCE

SECTION II, INDICATOR 1: FISCAL VIABILITY

NEAR-TERM MEASURES	
Measure 1a, Current Ratio (Working Capital Ratio): Current assets divided by current liabilities Does the school have the ability to cover short-term financial obligations?	Points Available
Meets Standard: • Current Ratio is greater than 1.0	15
Approaches Standard: • Current Ratio is between 0.9 and 1.0 or equal to 1.0	10
Does Not Meet Standard: • Current Ratio is less than or equal to 0.9	0
Measure 1b, Unrestricted Days Cash: Unrestricted Cash divided by (Total Expenses/365) Does the school maintain an appropriate balance of cash on hand?	Points Available
Meets Standard: • Days Cash is greater than 60 days	20
Approaches Standard: • Days Cash is between 15 and 60 days	10
Does Not Meet Standard: • Days Cash is less than 15 Days Cash	0
Measure 1c, Annual Debt to Income : Total Annual Debt Payments (Debt Service) / Total Revenue Does the school have enough income to cover short-term debt payments?	Points Available
Meets Standard: • Annual Debt to Income is below 5 percent	20
Approaches Standard: • Annual Debt to Income is between 5 and 15 percent	10
Does Not Meet Standard: • Annual Debt to Income is above 15 percent	0
Measure 1d, Default Is the school repaying debts in a timely manner?	Points Available
Meets Standard: • School is not in default of loan covenant(s) or delinquent with debt service payments nor does the school have any outstanding debt	10
Does Not Meet Standard: • School is in default of loan covenant(s), is delinquent with debt service payments or the school has any outstanding debt	0

SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES	
Measure 1e, Efficiency Margin: (Change in Net Assets+Change in Pension Related Accts) divided by Total Revenues Does the school manage costs appropriately?	Points Available
Meets Standard: • Aggregated Three-Year Efficiency Margin is greater than 0.	15
Approaches Standard: • Aggregated Three-Year Efficiency Margin is between -.01 and -10 percent	10

Exhibit A

Does Not Meet Standard: • Aggregated Three-Year Efficiency Margin is less than -10 percent	0
Measure 1f, Debt to Asset Ratio: (Total Liabilities-Deferred Pension Liability) divided by Total Assets Does the school maintain an appropriate balance between assets and liabilities over time?	Points Available
Meets Standard: • Debt to Asset Ratio is less than 95 percent	20
Approaches Standard: • Debt to Asset Ratio is between 95 and 100 percent	10
Does Not Meet Standard: • Debt to Asset Ratio is greater than 100 percent	0

Total Points Available—Indicator 1: 100 points

Exhibit A

SECTION II, INDICATOR 2: FISCAL MANAGEMENT & OVERSIGHT

Measure 2a, Adherence to GAAP Standards Is the school following Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)?	Points Available
Meets Standard: • The school complied with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of the charter contract relating to financial management and oversight expectations as evidenced by an annual independent audit that includes: ○ An unqualified audit opinion; ○ An audit devoid of significant findings and conditions, material weaknesses, or significant internal control weaknesses; ○ An audit that does not include a going concern disclosure in the notes or an explanatory paragraph; and ○ No other adverse statement indicating noncompliance with applicable laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of the charter contract relating to financial management and oversight.	20
Does Not Meet Standard: • The school failed to comply with at least one applicable law, rule, regulation, or provision of its charter contract relating to financial management and oversight expectations as evidenced by an annual independent audit.	0
Measure 2b, Adherence to Federal Financial Requirements Is the school following all applicable financial requirements when expending federal funds?	Points Available
Meets Standard: • The school complied with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of the charter contract relating to proper internal controls, expenditures, inventory, drawdowns, and cost principles when expending federal funds, including but not limited to: ○ Proper segregation of duties; ○ Source documentation for expenditures paid with federal funds; ○ Complete and on-time submission of program budgets (Title I, IDEA, and grant budgets); and ○ Maintaining inventory controls and documentation in accordance with federal regulations for items purchased with federal funds.	15
Approaches Standard: • The school failed to comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of the charter contract relating to proper internal controls, expenditures, inventory, drawdowns, and cost principles when expending federal funds during its SCSC onsite or desk monitoring visit, but the school adequately remedied its finding(s) and regained compliance.	10
Does Not Meet Standard: • The school failed to comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of the charter contract relating to proper internal controls, expenditures, inventory, drawdowns, and cost principles when expending federal funds.	0
Measure 2c, Adherence to the Local Units of Administration Manual Is the school following the Local Units of Administration (LUA) Manual?	Points Available
Meets Standard: • The school complied with all material provisions of the LUA manual.	15

Exhibit A

Approaches Standard: • The school failed to comply with at least one material provision of the LUA manual during its SCSC onsite or desk monitoring visit, but the school adequately remedied its finding(s) and regained compliance.	10
Does Not Meet Standard: • The school failed to comply with one or more material provisions of the LUA manual.	0
Measure 2d, Adherence to the School's Own Financial Policies and Procedures Is the school adhering to its own financial policies and procedures?	Points Available
Meets Standard: • The school adhered to its own financial policies and procedures approved by the school's governing board and/or developed by school staff.	20
Approaches Standard: • The school failed to comply with at least one of its own financial policies and/or procedures approved by the school's governing board and/or developed by school staff, but the school adequately remedied its finding(s) and regained compliance.	10
Does Not Meet Standard: • The school failed to comply with at least one of its own financial policies and/or procedures approved by the school's governing board and/or developed by school staff.	0
Measure 2e, Enrollment Variance: [Actual Enrollment during the October FTE Count (fiscal year x) – school enrollment projection (fiscal year X)] / school enrollment projection (fiscal year X) Is the school able to project enrollment in a way that enables adequate budgeting?	Points Available
Meets Standard: • Enrollment Variance equals less than 3 percent	15
Approaches Standard: • Enrollment Variance is between 3 and 8 percent	10
Does Not Meet Standard: • Enrollment Variance is greater than 8 percent	0
Measure 2f, Timely Audit Submission Does the school have the proper financial documentation to allow for a timely audit review and submission?	Points Available
Meets Standard: • The school submitted its financial audit on time, on or before November 1st.	20
Approaches Standard: • The school submitted its financial audit late, on or before December 1st.	10
Does Not Meet Standard: • The school submitted its financial audit late, after December 1st.	0

Total Points Available—Indicator 2: 100 points

Exhibit A

SECTION III: OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION

Is the organization effective, compliant, and well-run?

INDICATORS

To answer the question above, the SCSC uses data from agency monitoring and other sources, as noted in the appendix of this document, to determine compliance with the indicators listed below.

- Educational Program Compliance
- Governance, Ethics, and Transparency
- Obligations to Students
- Employer Obligations
- School Environment
- Additional and Continuing Obligations

MEETING GOALS

In any year of the charter term, a state charter school will be deemed operationally compliant if it adheres to the requirements of its charter contract, all applicable rules and laws as measured by the indicators listed above, thus earning a score of at least 80 in the Operations section of the CPF.

SECTION III: DETERMINATION OF COMPLIANCE

As measured by the indicators and measures set forth in this section, is the school meeting operational performance standards?

SCORING CATEGORIES:

Meets Standards	80-100 points
Approaches Standards	70-79 points
Does Not Meet Standards	0-69 points

Exhibit A

INDICATOR PERFORMANCE

SECTION III, INDICATOR 1: EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM COMPLIANCE

A charter school's overall purpose is to provide its students with a quality and innovative educational program. Schools must adhere to the educational program identified in its charter contract that was awarded on the basis of the program outlined in its petition.

Measure 1a, Essential or Innovative Features and Mission-Specific Goals Is the school implementing all essential or innovative features of its program as defined in its current charter contract, and is the school's curricular and educational program aligned with its stated mission as evidenced through the attainment of mission-specific goals?	Points Available
Meets Standard: • The school has fully implemented all essential or innovative features of its education and operational program as defined in the charter contract in all material respects, and the school has met all mission-specific goals included in its charter contract (if applicable)	4
Approaches Standard: • The school has at least fully implemented one essential or innovative features of its education and operational program as defined in the charter contract in all material respects or the school has met at least one mission-specific goal included in its charter contract (if applicable).	2
Does Not Meet Standard: • The school failed to fully implement any essential or innovative features of its education and operational program as defined in the charter contract in all material respects, and the school failed to meet any mission-specific goals included in its charter contract (if applicable).	0
Measure 1b, State Education Requirements Is the school complying with applicable state education requirements?	Points Available

Meets Standard:
• The school complied with all applicable state laws, rules, regulations, provisions of its charter contract, and the school's own policies and procedures relating to state education requirements, including but not limited to:
  ○ Provided all state mandated programs;
  ○ Adhered to graduation requirements;
  ○ Implemented state-adopted content standards; and
  ○ Administered state assessments in the manner required by law and rule.
	4

Approaches Standard: • The school failed to comply with at least one applicable state law, rule, regulation, provision of the charter contract, or the school's own policies and procedures relating to state education requirements during its SCSC onsite or desk monitoring visit, but the school adequately remedied its finding(s) and regained compliance.	2
Does Not Meet Standard: • The school failed to comply with at least one applicable state law, rule, regulation, provision of the charter contract, or the school's own policies and procedures relating to state education requirements.	0
Measure 1c, Federal Education Requirements Is the school complying with applicable federal education requirements?	Points Available
Meets Standard:	4

Exhibit A

• The school complied with all applicable federal laws, rules, regulations, and the school's own policies and procedures relating to federal education requirements, including but not limited to: o Federal assessment security and reporting of accountability requirements; and o Charter School Program grant, Title I, IV, and V requirements. o McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Charter School Program grant, Title I, IV, and V requirements.	
Approaches Standard: • The school failed to comply with at least one applicable federal law, rule, regulation, provision of the charter contract, or the school's own policies and procedures relating to federal education requirements.	2
Does Not Meet Standard: • The school failed to comply with two or more applicable federal laws, rules, regulations, provisions of the charter contract, or the school's own policies and procedures relating to federal education requirements.	0
Measure 1d, Data Reporting Is the school complying with all data and financial reporting requirements?	Points Available
Meets Standard: • The school complied with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of its charter contract relating to relevant reporting requirements, including timelines and deadlines, to the SCSC, GaDOE, and/or federal authorities, including but not limited to: o QBE/FTE Data Reporting; o Personnel Reporting; o Student Record Reporting; o CCRPI Data Reporting; o Consolidated LEA Implementation Plan (CLIP) for federal programs; o Special Education Data Reporting; o Required Data Surveys; o Complete and on-time submission of financial reports, such as its annual budgets, revised budgets, and/or DE 046, in the manner prescribed by GaDOE or the SCSC; o Timely periodic financial reports as required by the SCSC, GaDOE, or other state agencies; On-time submission and completion of its annual independent audit by the deadline established by the SCSC.	5
Approaches Standard: • The school failed to comply with one applicable law, rule, regulation, or provision of its charter contract relating to relevant reporting requirements, including timelines and deadlines, to the SCSC, GaDOE, and/or federal authorities.	3
Does Not Meet Standard: • The school failed to comply with two or more laws, rules, regulations, or provisions of its charter contract relating to relevant reporting requirements, including timelines and deadlines, to the SCSC, GaDOE, and/or federal authorities.	0

Total Points Available—Section III, Indicator 1: 17 points

Exhibit A

SECTION III, INDICATOR 2: GOVERNANCE, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY

A charter school's governing board must provide adequate oversight of school management and operations to ensure that the school is fulfilling its duties to students, employees, parents, and the general public.

Measure 2a, General Governance Is the governing board complying with all applicable general governance requirements?	Points Available
Meets Standard: • The school complied with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, provisions of its charter contract, and its policies relating to governance by its board, including but not limited to: ○ Board policies; ○ Board bylaws; ○ Code of ethics; ○ Conflicts of interest; ○ Board composition and/or membership laws and rules; and ○ Restrictions on compensation.	4
Approaches Standard: • The school failed to comply with at least one applicable law, rule, regulation, provision of the charter contract, or its policies relating to governance by its governing board during its SCSC onsite or desk monitoring visit, but the school adequately remedied its finding(s) and regained compliance.	2
Does Not Meet Standard: • The school failed to comply with at least one applicable law, rule, regulation, provision of the charter contract, or its policies relating to governance by its board.	0
Measure 2b, Open Governance Is the governing board complying with all applicable open governance requirements?	Points Available
Meets Standard: • The school complied with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, provision of its charter contract, and its policies relating to the Georgia Open Meetings Act and Open Records Act requirements.	4
Approaches Standard: • The school failed to comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, provision of its charter contract, or its policies relating to the Georgia Open Meetings Act and Open Records Act requirements during its SCSC onsite or desk monitoring visit, but the school adequately remedied its finding(s) and regained compliance.	2
Does Not Meet Standard: • The school failed to comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, provision of its charter contract, or its policies relating to the Georgia Open Meetings Act and Open Records Act requirements.	0
Measure 2c, Governance Training Is the governing board complying with all applicable governance training requirements?	Points Available
Meets Standard: • The school took action to ensure that all governing board members comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, provision of its charter contract, and its policies relating to the participation of its governing board in required trainings, including, but not limited to, annual attendance by the entire governing board at SCSC provided or approved training pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2084(f).	4

Exhibit A

Does Not Meet Standard: • The school failed to take action to ensure that all governing board members comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, provision of its charter contract, and its policies relating to the participation of its governing board in required trainings, including, but not limited to, annual attendance by the entire governing board at SCSC provided or approved training pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2084(f).	0
Measure 2d, Transparent Governance and Communication with Stakeholders Is the governing board operating transparently and effectively communicating with stakeholders?	Points Available
Meets Standard: • The school complied with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, provisions of its charter contract, or its policies relating to operating transparently and effectively communicating with stakeholders, including but not limited to: ○ Following provisions in SCSC rule 691-2-.03 regarding providing the public easy access to informational items on the school's website; ○ Communicating school leadership and other major school changes in a timely and transparent matter; and ○ Appropriately and promptly responding to stakeholder complaints, questions, and concerns.	4
Approaches Standard: • The school failed to comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, provisions of its charter contract, or its policies relating to operating transparently and effectively communicating with stakeholders during its SCSC onsite or desk monitoring visit, but the school adequately remedied its finding(s) and regained compliance.	2
Does Not Meet Standard: • The school failed to comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, provisions of its charter contract, or its policies relating to operating transparently and effectively communicating with stakeholders.	0
Measure 2e, Budget Approved in Accordance with State Law Did the school approve its budget in accordance with state law?	Points Available
Meets Standard: • The school's budget was approved in accordance with state law, including but not limited to preforming the following items from O.C.G.A. § 20-2-167.1 related to the school's budget approval: ○ Conducting two public meetings to provide an opportunity for public input on the proposed budget; ○ Advertising the two public meetings in the school's legal organ; and ○ Making a summary of the proposed annual operating budget a publicly available area of the school's website.	4
Does Not Meet Standard: • The school failed to comply with at least one applicable state law requirement regarding the passage of the school's annual budget.	0

Total Points Available—Section III, Indicator 2: 20 points

Exhibit A

SECTION III, INDICATOR 3: OBLIGATIONS TO STUDENTS

Families entrust schools with the education and welfare of their children, and the school must afford those children the appropriate rights and care.

Measure 3a, Rights of All Students Is the school protecting the rights of all students?	Points Available

Meets Standard:
• The school complied with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, provisions of its charter contract, and its policies relating to the rights of students, including but not limited to:
  ○ Policies and practices related to admissions, lottery, waiting lists, fair and open recruitment, and enrollment (including rights to enroll or maintain enrollment);
  ○ The collection and protection of student information (that could be used in discriminatory ways or otherwise contrary to law);
  ○ Due process protections, privacy, civil rights, and student liberties requirements, including First Amendment protections and the Establishment Clause restrictions prohibiting public schools from engaging in religious instruction; and
  ○ Conduct of discipline (discipline hearings and suspension and expulsion policies and practices).
	6

Approaches Standard: • The school failed to comply with at least one applicable law, rule, regulation, provision of its charter contract, or its policies relating to the rights of students during its SCSC onsite or desk monitoring visit, but the school adequately remedied its finding(s) and regained compliance.	3
Does Not Meet Standard: • The school failed to comply with at least one applicable law, rule, regulation, provision of its charter contract, or its policies relating to the rights of students.	0
Measure 3b, Rights of Students with Disabilities Is the school protecting the rights of students with disabilities?	Points Available

Meets Standard:
• Consistent with the school's status and responsibilities as a Local Education Agency (LEA), the school complied with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of the charter contract (including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act) relating to the treatment of students with identified disabilities and those suspected of having a disability, including but not limited to:
  ○ Identification and referral of students who may have a disability;
  ○ Operational compliance regarding the academic program, assessments, and all other aspects of the school's program and responsibilities;
  ○ Discipline, including due process protections, manifestation determinations, and behavioral intervention plans;
  ○ Appropriately implementing student Individualized Education Programs and Section 504 plans;
  ○ Ensuring appropriate access to the school's facilities and programs to students and parents.
	6

Approaches Standard: • The school failed to comply with at least one applicable law, rule, regulation, or provision of its charter contract relating to the treatment of students with identified disabilities and those suspected of having a disability during its SCSC onsite or desk monitoring visit but the school adequately remedied its finding(s) and regained compliance.	3

Exhibit A

Does Not Meet Standard: • The school failed to comply with at least one applicable law, rule, regulation, or provision of its charter contract relating to the treatment of students with identified disabilities and those suspected of having a disability.	0
Measure 3c, Rights of Students who are English Learners (ELs) Is the school protecting the rights of English Learners (ELs)?	Points Available
Meets Standard: • The school complied with all applicable provisions of Title III of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and all applicable state and federal laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of its charter contract relating to EL requirements, including but not limited to: ○ Required policies related to the service of EL students; ○ Proper steps for identification of students in need of EL services; ○ Appropriate and equitable delivery of services to identified students; ○ Appropriate accommodations on assessments; ○ Exiting of students from EL services; and ○ Ongoing monitoring of exited students.	6
Approaches Standard: • The school failed to comply with at least one applicable law, rule, regulation, or provision of its charter contract relating to EL requirements during its SCSC onsite or desk monitoring visit, but the school adequately remedied its finding(s) and regained compliance.	3
Does Not Meet Standard: • The school failed to comply with at least one applicable law, rule, regulation, or provision of its charter contract relating to EL requirements.	0

Total Points Available—Section III, Indicator 3: 18 points

Exhibit A

SECTION III, INDICATOR 4: EMPLOYER OBLIGATIONS

The school must respect its employees and ensure that they are duly qualified to further the education and welfare of students.

Measure 4a, Employee Qualifications, Evaluations, and Criminal Records Checks Is the school meeting teacher and other employee qualification and criminal background check requirements?	Points Available

Meets Standard:
• The school complied with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of its charter contract relating to employee qualifications, employee evaluations, and criminal background checks, including but not limited to:
  ○ Title II, Part A requirements;
  ○ Implementation of the Teacher and Leader Keys Effectiveness Systems (TKES and LKES);
  ○ Ensuring staff have a proper background check or clearance certificate issued by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission.
	5

Approaches Standard: • The school failed to comply with at least one applicable law, rule, regulation, or provision of its charter contract relating to employee qualifications, employee evaluations, and criminal background checks requirements during its SCSC onsite or desk monitoring visit, but the school adequately remedied its finding(s) and regained compliance.	2
Does Not Meet Standard: • The school failed to comply with at least one applicable law, rule, regulation, or provision of its charter contract relating to employee qualifications, employee evaluations, and criminal background checks requirements.	0
Measure 4b, Employee Rights Is the school respecting employee rights?	Points Available
Meets Standard: • The school complied with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, provisions of its charter contract, and its governing policies relating to employment, including, but not limited to, professional qualifications, nepotism and conflict of interest policies, the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Family Medical Leave Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and employment contracts.	5
Approaches Standard: • The school failed to comply with at least one applicable law, rule, regulation, provision of its charter contract, or its governing policies relating to employment, including, but not limited to, professional qualifications, nepotism and conflict of interest policies, the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Family Medical Leave Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and employment contracts.during its SCSC onsite or desk monitoring, but the school adequately remedied its finding(s) and regained compliance.	2
Does Not Meet Standard: • The school failed to comply with at least one applicable law, rule, regulation, provision of its charter contract, or its governing policies relating to employment, including, but not limited to, professional qualifications, nepotism and conflict of interest policies, the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Family Medical Leave Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and employment contracts.	0
Measure 4c, Employee Civil Rights Does the school adhere to applicable requirements to ensure the protection of employee civil rights?	Points Available

Exhibit A

Meets Standard: • The school complied with applicable notice, grievance procedure, and substantive requirements of federal and state laws, rules, or regulations prohibiting employment discrimination.	5
Approaches Standard: • The school failed to comply with at least one applicable law, rule, or regulation prohibiting employment discrimination, but the school adequately remedied its findings (s) and regained compliance.	2
Does Not Meet Standard: • The school failed to comply with at least one applicable law, rule, or regulation prohibiting employment discrimination.	0

Total Points Available—Section III, Indicator 4: 15 points

Exhibit A

SECTION III, INDICATOR 5: SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

A safe and healthy school environment is critical to creating a conducive learning environment and protecting the well-being of students and employees.

Measure 5a, Facility Is the school complying with facilities requirements?	Points Available

Meets Standard:
• The school complied with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of its charter contract relating to the school's facilities including but not limited to:
  ○ Fire inspections and related records;
  ○ Viable certificate of occupancy;
  ○ Documentation of requisite insurance coverage;
  ○ Approval from GaDOE regarding initial site selection and facility requirements; and
  ○ Subsequent reports and approvals related to facility agreements, changes, maintenance, modifications, and expansion, as required by law, SCSC and GaDOE rules, regulations, and policies.
	6

Approaches Standard: • The school failed to comply with at least one applicable law, rule, regulation, or provision of its charter contract relating to facility safety and the protection of student and employee health during its SCSC facility visit or policy, procedure, and practice review, but the school adequately remedied its finding(s) and regained compliance.	3
Does Not Meet Standard: • The school failed to comply with at least one applicable law, rule, regulation, or provision of its charter contract relating to the school's facilities.	0
Measure 5b, Health and Safety Is the school complying with health and safety requirements?	Points Available

Meets Standard:
• The school complied with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of its charter contract relating to safety and the protection of student and employee health, including, but not limited to:
  ○ School Health Nurse Program;
  ○ Conducting child abuse and neglect training;
  ○ Annual health assessments of students;
  ○ Diabetes Medical Management Plans;
  ○ Access to auto-injectable epinephrine and automated external defibrillators as appropriate;
  ○ Scoliosis screening; and
  ○ A physically safe and secure environment.
	6

Approaches Standard: • The school failed to comply with at least one applicable law, rule, regulation, or provision of its charter contract relating to safety and the protection of student and employee health during its SCSC onsite or desk monitoring visit, but the school adequately remedied its finding(s) and regained compliance.	3
Does Not Meet Standard: • The school failed to comply with at least one applicable law, rule, regulation, or provision of its charter contract relating to safety and the protection of student and employee health.	0

Exhibit A

Measure 5c, Information, Data, and Communication Is the school maintaining student and employee information and data securely and communicating with stakeholders appropriately?	Points Available

Meets Standard:
• The school complied with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, provisions of its charter contract, governing board policies, and SCSC directives relating to providing required federal notices and the handling of information and stakeholder communication, including but not limited to:
  ○ Giving appropriate notices and maintaining the security of providing access to student records under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and other applicable authorities;
  ○ Transferring of student records; and
  ○ Confidentiality of personnel records not subject to open records requirements.
	6

Approaches Standard: • The school failed to comply with at least one applicable law, rule, regulation, provision of its charter contract, governing board policy, or SCSC directive relating to providing required federal notices and the handling of information and stakeholder communication during its SCSC onsite or desk monitoring visit, but the school adequately remedied its finding(s) and regained compliance.	3
Does Not Meet Standard: • The school failed to comply with at least one applicable law, rule, regulation, provision of its charter contract, governing board policy, or SCSC directive relating to providing required federal notices and the handling of information and stakeholder communication.	0

Total Points Available—Section III, Indicator 5: 18 points

Exhibit A

SECTION III, INDICATOR 6: ADDITIONAL AND CONTINUING OBLIGATIONS

A charter school must faithfully fulfill all its obligations and quickly remedy any instance of noncompliance.

Measure 6a, Additional Obligations Is the school complying with all other obligations?	Points Available
Meets Standard: • The school complied with all other legal, statutory, regulatory, or contractual requirements, including those contained in its charter contract, that are not otherwise explicitly addressed in these Operational Performance Standards, including but not limited to requirements from the following sources: ○ Revisions to state charter law; ○ Consent decrees; ○ Provisions of the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, and/or After-School Snack Program, including nutritional and reimbursement requirements thereof, if food service is provided; ○ School bus specifications, bus driver training and licensing requirements, and transportation survey deadlines, if transportation is provided; ○ Intervention requirements by the authorizer; and ○ Requirements by other entities to which the charter school is accountable (e.g., Georgia Department of Education, Professional Standards Commission, Department of Labor, etc.)	6
Approaches Standard: • The school failed to comply with at least one other legal, statutory, regulatory, or contractual requirement, including those contained in its charter contract that is not otherwise explicitly addressed in these Operational Performance Standards during its SCSC onsite or desk monitoring visit, but the school adequately remedied its finding(s) and regained compliance.	3
Does Not Meet Standard: • The school failed to comply with at least one other legal, statutory, regulatory, or contractual requirement, including those contained in its charter contract that is not otherwise explicitly addressed in these Operational Performance Standards.	0
Measure 6b, Continuing Obligations Is the school remedying noncompliance after proper notification?	Points Available
Meets Standard: • The school fulfilled the terms of a corrective action plan required because of the school's probationary status, and the SCSC determined that the conditions which precipitated the probation no longer exist and that no new conditions necessitate probationary status.	6
Does Not Meet Standard: • Failure to adhere to probation requirements, including but not limited to failure to implement a corrective action plan; failure to implement a required corrective action plan timely; failure to produce interim reports in the form and at the time required by the SCSC, or failure to remediate conditions that precipitated the probationary status.	0

Total Points Available—Section III, Indicator 6: 12 points

Exhibit A

DATA SOURCES COMPILED

Academic Performance:

Indicator	Data Source
Grade Band Scores	GaDOE: CCRPI Scoring by Component data file, CCRPI Calculation Guides, Student Record data file SCSC: Value- Added Impact report, Student Record data file
Schoolwide Scores	GaDOE: CCRPI Scoring by Component data file, CCRPI Calculation Guides, Student Record data file SCSC: Value- Added Impact report, Student Record data file

Financial Performance:

Indicators	Measures	Data Source
Fiscal Viability	Near-Term Measures	School Audit Report: Governmental Funds-Balance Sheet School Audit Report: Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance School Audit Report: Notes
	Sustainability Measures	School Audit Report: Statement of Activities/Change in Net Position and Audit Notes School Audit Report: Statement of Net Position
Fiscal Management	Management and Oversight	SCSC Annual Enrollment Projection Form GADOE: Data Collections, Student Enrollment by Grade Level GaDOE: Charter School Annual Report, SEA Program Monitoring, Financial Reports SCSC: Monitoring Activities, Complaint Investigations Other: Reports of Noncompliance from a State or Federal Agency, Independent Audit Report

Operational Performance:

Indicator	Data Source
Educational Program Compliance	GaDOE: Charter School Annual Report, SEA Program Monitoring SCSC: Monitoring Activities, Complaint Investigations Other: Reports of Noncompliance from a State or Federal Agency, Independent Audit Report
Governance, Ethics and Transparency	GaDOE: Charter School Annual Report, SEA Program Monitoring SCSC: Monitoring Activities, Complaint Investigations, Training Rosters Other: Reports of Noncompliance from a State or Federal Agency, Independent Audit Report
Obligations to Students	GaDOE: Charter School Annual Report, SEA Program Monitoring, Data Reports SCSC: Monitoring Activities, Complaint Investigations, Other: Reports of Noncompliance from a State or Federal Agency, Independent Audit Report
Employer Obligations	GaDOE: Charter School Annual Report, SEA Program Monitoring, Data Reports SCSC: Monitoring Activities, Complaint Investigations, Other: Reports of Noncompliance from a State or Federal Agency, Independent Audit Report
School Environment	GaDOE: Charter School Annual Report, SEA Program Monitoring, Data Reports SCSC: Monitoring Activities, Complaint Investigations, Training Rosters Other: Reports of Noncompliance from a State or Federal Agency, Independent Audit Report

Exhibit A

Additional and Continuing Obligations	GaDOE: Charter School Annual Report, SEA Program Monitoring SCSC: Monitoring Activities, Complaint Investigations, Training Rosters Other: Reports of Noncompliance from a State or Federal Agency, Independent Audit Report

Spring Creek.Charter Contract.FY25

Final Audit Report 2025-04-08

Created:	2025-04-04
By:	Kiara Thompson (kiara.thompson@scsc.georgia.gov)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAAxTygd2kRsvIQXShHZ9BmWNxQzu_BfMX

"Spring Creek.Charter Contract.FY25" History

Document created by Kiara Thompson (kiara.thompson@scsc.georgia.gov)
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Email viewed by lhixon@pataula.net
2025-04-04 - 7:51:03 PM GMT

Signer lhixon@pataula.net entered name at signing as Lindsey Hixon
2025-04-08 - 1:37:08 AM GMT

Document e-signed by Lindsey Hixon (lhixon@pataula.net)
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Agreement completed.
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State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Donovan Head, Executive Director

July 24, 2025

VIA U.S. AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

Lindsey Hixon
Spring Creek Charter Academy, Board Chair
2501 Vada Road
Bainbridge, GA 39817
lhixon@pataula.net

Re: Administrative Clarification- Spring Creek Charter Academy

Dear Ms. Hixon:

The State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC) notes that the first paragraph of the school's charter contract incorrectly names "Spring Creek Charter Academy, Inc." as "Petitioner"; however, the correct "Petitioner" is "Pataula Charter Academy, Inc." consistent with the entity named in the contract's signature line.

Paragraph 35 of the Spring Creek Charter Academy charter contract permits administrative clarification of non-material terms, as determined by the SCSC. SCSC staff may clarify any non-material term in writing. SCSC staff has determined that correction of the typo regarding the Petitioner's name does not impact the material terms of the charter contract.

Therefore, this administrative clarification expressly recognizes that Pataula Charter Academy, Inc. is the designated Petitioner in the charter contract for Spring Creek Charter Academy. Except as identified herein, all terms and conditions of the charter contract remain in full force and effect.

Please contact me at tiffany.leach@scsc.georgia.gov if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Leach

Tiffany Leach
Sr. Associate General Counsel

NOVATION AGREEMENT FOR SPRING CREEK CHARTER ACADEMY

This Novation Agreement is entered into as of December 10, 2025 (the "Effective Date"), by and between PATAULA CHARTER ACADEMY, INC., a Georgia nonprofit corporation ("Original Board"), SPRING CREEK CHARTER ACADEMY, INC., a Georgia nonprofit corporation ("Substitute Board"), and STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION OF GEORGIA, a state agency ("SCSC").

WHEREAS, Original Board currently operates Spring Creek Charter School pursuant to the Charter Contract executed on or about April 8, 2025 (the "Charter Contract");

WHEREAS, Original Board desires to transfer all of its rights, duties, and obligations under the Charter Contract to Substitute Board;

WHEREAS, Substitute Board is a nonprofit corporation organized under Georgia law for the purpose of operating Spring Creek Charter School and desires to assume all rights, duties, and obligations under the Charter Contract;

WHEREAS, the Commission is willing to consent to the substitution of Substitute Board for Original Board under the Charter Contract; and

WHEREAS, the Parties intend that this Agreement shall constitute a complete novation whereby Substitute Board shall be substituted for Original Board under the Charter Contract, and Original Board shall be fully released and discharged from all obligations thereunder.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises contained herein, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

1. Novation. As of the Effective Date, Substitute Board is hereby substituted for Original Board as a party to the Charter Contract, and Original Board is hereby released and discharged from all duties, obligations, and liabilities arising under or in connection with the Charter Contract from and after the Effective Date.

2. Assumption of Obligations. Substitute Board hereby accepts the foregoing substitution and assumes and agrees to perform and discharge all duties, obligations, and liabilities of Original Board arising under or in connection with the Charter Contract from and after the Effective Date (cumulatively, “duties”), as fully as if Substitute Board had been the original party to the Charter Contract.

3. Consent. The SCSC hereby consents to the substitution of Substitute Board for Original Board under the Charter Contract, releases Original Board from all duties, and agrees to look solely to Substitute Board for the performance of all duties.

4. Operations. Original Board shall transfer or assign to Substitute Board all tangible and intangible state or federal funds and assets that were received, maintained or purchased

related to the school's operation, subject to applicable law and any third-party consents required. Original Board and Substitute Board must effectuate all other transition activities to ensure compliance with relevant law and the charter contract.

5. Amendments to Contract. The Parties agree to amend the Charter Contract as of the Effective Date as follows:

    a. Paragraph 3 is hereby deleted and replaced with the following:

        Grade Range. The Charter School shall serve grades K-12. The Charter School's total enrollment shall be at least 450 students but shall not exceed 800 students at any point during the charter term.

6. Authority and Conflicts. Each nonprofit corporation represents and warrants that it has taken all actions necessary under applicable law to authorize the execution and delivery of this Novation Agreement, that the individual executing this Agreement on its behalf is duly authorized to do so, and that it has evaluated and approved this Novation Agreement in light of any applicable conflict of interest policies or requirements, notwithstanding that the same individual serves as board chair of both corporations.

7. Full Force and Effect. Except as expressly set forth in this Novation Agreement, the Charter Contract shall remain in full force and effect and shall be binding upon Substitute Board as if Substitute Board had been the original party thereto.

8. Entire Agreement. This Novation Agreement, together with the Charter Contract, constitutes the entire agreement among the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings, whether written or oral.

9. Amendments. This Novation Agreement may be amended only by a written instrument executed by all Parties.

10. Governing Law. This Novation Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Georgia.

11. Severability. If any provision of this Novation Agreement is held to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Novation Agreement.

Michael Dudgeon (Dec 18, 2025 12:42:10 EST)

12/18/2025

Mike Dudgeon, Chairperson (Date)
STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION OF GEORGIA

Lindsey Hixon
Lindsey Hixon (Dec 18, 2025 12:35:11 EST)

12/18/2025

Lindsey Hixon, Board Chair
PATAULA CHARTER ACADEMY, INC.

(Date)

Lindsey Hixon
Lindsey Hixon (Dec 18, 2025 12:35:11 EST)

12/18/2025

Lindsey Hixon, Board Chair
SPRING CREEK CHARTER ACADEMY, INC.

(Date)

FY26 SCCA Novation

Final Audit Report 2025-12-18

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