



10 Must-Ask Questions When Considering an ESP

Does the ESP provide a curriculum? If so, has your organization taken proactive steps to verify that the curriculum aligned with Georgia's state standards and tests?

Has your organization independently verified that the ESP has a good track record with the proposed demographic?

Does the ESP provide a SIS (Student Information System)? If so, has your organization independently verified that the SIS is compatible with Georgia's SLDS (Student Longitudinal Data System)?

Does the ESP assist with facilities or facilities financing? If so, is there a fee? Is any facility dependent upon a continued contract with the ESP?

What's the ESP compensation structure? Is the contract a "sweeps" or "evergreen" contract?

Have any schools in the ESP network closed due to financial problems?

Have any schools in the ESP network closed due to academic problems?

How are other ESP network schools performing academically?

Does the termination clause appear equitable? Is there a penalty for non-renewal?

If the ESP is not currently operating in Georgia, why not?

The decision to contract with an ESP is one of the most important decisions a governing board will make. An appropriately structured relationship between the two parties is vital to the success of the partnership. The questions above may provide a helpful framework for an initial consideration of an ESP. However, applicants should conduct additional due diligence to ensure that the ESP is the best fit for the charter school. Additional resources can be found on the SCSC website.