



## State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

### Action Item – Staff Recommendation

#### Item Summary

Charter Renewal Recommendation for Academy for Classical Education, Baconton Community Charter School, Delta STEAM Academy, DuBois Integrity Academy, Ethos Classical Charter School, Furlow Charter School, Georgia School for Innovation and the Classics, International Charter School of Atlanta, Southwest Georgia STEM Charter School, Spring Creek Charter Academy and Yi Hwang Academy for Language Excellence.

#### Recommendation

SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the renewal application for each of the above-mentioned schools by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a five-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.

#### Rationale

Each of the above-mentioned schools have earned a standard five-year renewal by:

- i. outperforming the schools its students would otherwise attend in every year of the charter term or by earning a meets academic designation for a majority of the charter term (three out of four years) and earning an approaches standards designation in the one remaining year, and by
- ii. meeting or approaching financial and operational standards for a majority of the charter term and in the most recent year.

All evidence indicates that each school will continue to operate as a high-quality charter school consistent with the SCSC's mission and the educational goals of Georgia.

#### Strategic Plan Alignment

Objective: Increase charter school choice in communities with few or no options.



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## ACADEMY FOR CLASSICAL EDUCATION

ATTENDANCE ZONE	STATEWIDE
GRADE LEVELS SERVED	K-12
TOTAL ENROLLMENT	1,808
YEAR OPENED	2019-2020

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### Historical Track Record of Performance

Section	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
ACA	NA	Meets	Meets	Meets	Exceeds
FIN	80	95	95	95	Meets
OPS	87	89	81	78	94

The Academy for Classical Education is completing its first 5-year charter contract under authorization by the SCSC. The current contract term is from July 2019 to June 2025.

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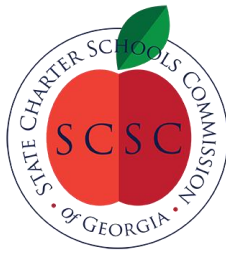
### PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

**School Model:** The mission of the Charter School is to build the foundation of knowledge and critical thinking skills necessary for children to become independent learners for life. The Charter School offers a classical educational model emphasizing independent scholarship, critical thinking, logical analysis, and a love for learning.

**Academic Performance:** ACE has consistently outperformed its comparison school and district on state measures of academic performance for the entirety of its charter term. ACE's higher scores on CCRPI Content Mastery, Grade Band Score, and Progress for all grade bands served reflect a strong academic program and quality educational choice for parents and families.

**Financial Performance:** ACE has consistently met SCSC financial performance standards. The school meets both near-term and sustainability measures, meaning it maintains a fiscally viable organization.

**Operational Performance:** ACE has met SCSC Operational standards for a majority of the term and was just two points shy of meeting last school year. In FY23, the school lost points due to GaDOE Cross-Functional monitoring, also referred to as Federal Programs for both federal education and federal financial requirements. However, the school's operations score improved from 79 to 94 in 2023-2024. Overall, ACE employs appropriate governance policies, attends required training, creates a safe and healthy learning environment, protects student and employees' rights, and executes an educational program that aligns with state requirements and charter contract expectations.



## BACONTON COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL

<b>ATTENDANCE ZONE</b>	BAKER COUNTY, DOUGHERTY COUNTY, LEE COUNTY, MITCHELL COUNTY, WORTH COUNTY
<b>GRADE LEVELS SERVED</b>	PK-12
<b>TOTAL ENROLLMENT</b>	941
<b>YEAR OPENED</b>	2019-2020

### Historical Track Record of Performance

Section	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
ACA	NA	Meets	Meets	Meets	Exceeds
FIN	95	100	95	100	Meets
OPS	84	81	80	72	87

Baconton Community Charter School is completing its first 5-year charter contract under the SCSC's authorization. The current contract term is from July 2019 to June 2025.

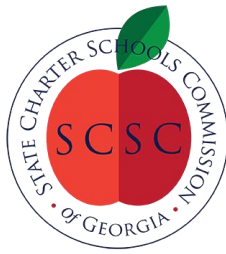
### PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

**School Model:** The mission of the Charter School is to provide a safe, nurturing environment for a diverse community of learners to develop academic potential and ethical character leading to productive citizenship in the 21st century.

**Academic Performance:** Baconton Community Charter School (BCCS) has met SCSC academic performance standards in every year of the charter term, meaning it provides a better educational option for its students than they would otherwise receive in the traditional district school. BCCS consistently outperforms the comparison schools' scores on content mastery and grade band scores in all grade bands served: elementary, middle, and high.

**Financial Performance:** BCCS has consistently met SCSC financial performance standards. The school meets both near-term and sustainability measures, meaning it maintains a fiscally viable organization.

**Operational Performance:** BCCS has met its operational standards for most of the term. In the 2022-2023 school year, BCCS lost points related to open governance and governance training. The school's operations score improved and met standards for the 2023-2024 school year. Overall, BCCS employs appropriate governance policies, attends required training, creates a safe and healthy learning environment, protects student and employees' rights, and executes an educational program that aligns with state requirements and charter contract expectations.



## DELTA STEAM ACADEMY

<b>ATTENDANCE ZONE</b>	<b>DOUGLAS, SOUTH FULTON, SOUTH COBB, PAULDING, AND CARROLL COUNTIES</b>
<b>GRADE LEVELS SERVED</b>	<b>K-7</b>
<b>TOTAL ENROLLMENT</b>	<b>391</b>
<b>YEAR OPENED</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>

### Historical Track Record of Performance

Section	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
ACA	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets
FIN	100	85	85	Meets
OPS	66	72	57	73

Delta STEAM is completing its first five-year charter contract from July 2020 to June 2025.

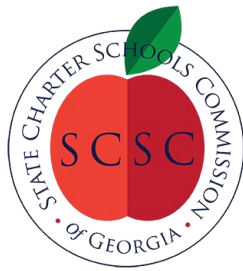
### PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

**School Model:** DELTA STEAM implements a science, technology, engineering, arts, and math immersion curriculum that features elements of problem-based learning and a focus on character development.

**Academic Performance:** DELTA STEAM has met SCSC academic performance standards every year since it opened in the 2020-2021 school year, meaning it has provided students with a better educational option for its students than they would otherwise receive in the traditional district school. In the 2023-2024 school year, DELTA STEAM outperformed its school comparison scores for the middle grades on all indicators. For the Elementary grades, it outperformed its comparison school on CCRPI Content Mastery.

**Financial Performance:** DELTA STEAM has consistently met SCSC financial performance standards. The school meets both near-term and sustainability measures, meaning it maintains a fiscally viable organization.

**Operational Performance:** DELTA STEAM has struggled to meet SCSC operational performance standards. The areas of non-compliance have varied from year to year. Generally, the school received findings in areas of governance, ethics, and transparency; obligations to students; employer obligations; and health and safety. However, the school's score improved and approached standards in the 2023-2024 school year. From FY23 to FY24, the school's score improved in seven measures on the CPF, meeting the criteria for renewal.



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## DUBOIS INTEGRITY ACADEMY

ATTENDANCE ZONE	CLAYTON COUNTY
GRADE LEVELS SERVED	K-8
TOTAL ENROLLMENT	1341
YEAR OPENED	2015-2016

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### Historical Track Record of Performance

Section	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
ACA	MEETS	MEETS	MEETS	APP
FIN	85	85	95	MEETS
OPS	98	91	67	89

DuBois Integrity Academy is completing its second 5-year charter contract. The current contract term is from July 2020 to June 2025. The school was previously renewed in the 2019-2020 cycle.

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**Academic Performance:** Although Dubois Integrity Academy (DIA) earned an Approaches designation in the 2023-2024 school year, the school met SCSC academic performance standards for the previous six years, meaning it is providing a better educational option for its students than they would otherwise receive in the traditional district school. Academic performance dipped in the Elementary grade band for the 2023-2024 school year, falling below its comparison scores. Performance mainly remained the same in the Middle-grade band, with outperformance on all indicators. The dip in elementary academic performance is due to facility issues it encountered in the fall of 2023 which resulted in crowded classrooms in grades 4 and 5. However, the facility issues were rectified before the end of last school year and the school is back on track. Based on interim assessment data submitted by the school, performance is up across all grades and subjects compared to the same time last year (Fall 2023 v. Fall 2024).

**Financial Performance:** DIA has consistently (for the past five years) met SCSC financial performance standards. The school meets both near-term and sustainability measures, meaning it is maintaining a fiscally viable organization. Additionally, the school demonstrates appropriate financial oversight and management.

**Operational Performance:** DIA met operational standards for a majority of the charter term and in the most recent year for which data are available. In 2023-24, the school lost points due to GaDOE Cross-Functional monitoring, also referred to as Federal Programs for both federal education and federal financial requirements, among other things. However, the school's score increased from 67 to 89 in FY24. Generally, the school employs appropriate governance policies, attends required governance training, creates a safe and healthy learning environment, protects student and employees' rights, and executes an educational program that aligns with state requirements and charter contract expectations.



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## ETHOS CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOL

ATTENDANCE ZONE	ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS, FULTON COUNTY
GRADE LEVELS SERVED	K-5
TOTAL ENROLLMENT	676
YEAR OPENED	2019-2020

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### Historical Track Record of Performance

Section	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
ACA	NA	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets
FIN	85	85	95	100	APP
OPS	87	85	80	71	70

Ethos Classical Charter School is completing the sixth year of its first 5-year charter contract with a one-year COVID extension. The current contract term is from July 2019 to June 2025.

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### PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

**School Model:** The mission of Ethos Classical Charter School is, through a rigorous classical curriculum and within a structured, supportive community, to ensure every K-5 student is on the path to college and a life of opportunity. The Charter School offers a classical curriculum with a focus on literacy.

**Academic Performance:** Ethos Classical Charter School (Ethos) met SCSC academic performance standards for each year of its charter term, meaning it is providing a better educational option for its students than they would otherwise receive in the traditional district school. The school had a unique grade-level expansion plan for its first term, which limited the availability of growth data. However, the school consistently outperforms the comparison schools' scores on content mastery measures.

**Financial Performance:** Ethos met SCSC financial performance standards in the first four years of operations. However, in the most recent audit year, the school's score declined due to a decline in its fund balance as well as an increase in its liabilities, which stemmed from construction and renovation costs for the addition of a campus for 5-8<sup>th</sup> grade. Despite some negative trends shown in the FY2024 audit, a substantial growth in student enrollment has increased school revenue.

**Operational Performance:** Ethos has met SCSC Operational standards for a majority of the term. However, it has approached standards for the second year in a row. In FY23, the school lost points due to GaDOE Cross-Functional monitoring, also referred to as Federal Programs for both federal education and federal financial requirements. The school was not monitored by Federal Programs in FY24 but received more findings in its FY24 Monitoring Results. This led to the school approaching standards for the second year in a row.



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**FURLOW CHARTER SCHOOL**  
**ATTENDANCE ZONE** | **SUMTER COUNTY**  
**GRADE LEVELS SERVED** | **K-12**  
**TOTAL ENROLLMENT** | **585**  
**YEAR OPENED** | **2020-2021**

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**Table 1. Historical Track Record of Performance**

Section	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
ACA	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets
FIN	100	100	100	Meets
OPS	80	91	80	90

Furlow Charter School is completing its first 5-year charter contract. The current contract term is from July 2020 to June 2025.

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### **RENEWAL ELIGIBILITY STANDINGS PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW**

**School Model:** To offer an innovative approach to public education by encouraging critical thinking and multi-disciplinary learning through a project-based education. Furlow Charter School is committed to fostering academic excellence, cultural awareness, and social responsibility through family and community involvement in the development of life-long learners.

**Academic Performance:** Furlow Charter School (Furlow) has met SCSC academic performance standards throughout its charter term. Furlow typically outperforms the comparison schools' scores on content mastery in all grade bands served, elementary, middle, and high. Furlow's 2023-24 results indicate continued outperformance at the Elementary and Middle levels for each indicator. However, the high school performance declined. The school submitted an analysis of its high school data and its continued plans for improvement.

**Financial Performance:** Furlow has consistently (for the past five years) met SCSC financial performance standards. The school meets both near-term and sustainability measures, meaning it maintains a fiscally viable organization.

**Operational Performance:** Furlow met operational performance standards every year of the charter term. The school only received two findings in its FY24 monitoring results. The school employs appropriate governance policies, attends required training, creates a safe and healthy learning environment, protects student and employees' rights, and executes an educational program that aligns with state requirements and charter contract expectations.



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## GEORGIA SCHOOL FOR INNOVATION AND THE CLASSICS

ATTENDANCE ZONE	STATEWIDE
GRADE LEVELS SERVED	K-12
TOTAL ENROLLMENT	1015
YEAR OPENED	2015-2016

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**Table 1. Historical Track Record of Performance**

Section	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
ACA	Meets	Meets	Meets	Exceeds
FIN	100	95	100	Meets
OPS	84	72	72	80

Georgia School for Innovation and the Classics is completing its second 5-year charter contract. The current contract term is from July 2020 to June 2025.

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### RENEWAL ELIGIBILITY

**School Model:** The mission of Georgia School for Innovation and the Classics (GSIC) is to develop a public K-12 school of excellence rooted in the foundational principles of a classical education that include partnerships with key civic, industry, and higher education entities to integrate classroom learning with the workplace.

**Academic Performance:** GSIC has consistently outperformed its comparison school and district for the entirety of its charter term on state measures of academic performance. GSIC has higher scores on CCRPI Content Mastery and Grade Band Score for elementary, middle, and high school grade bands, and GSIC's elementary and middle-grade bands also consistently outperformed comparison schools in CCRPI Progress.

**Financial Performance:** GSIC has consistently met SCSC financial performance standards. The school meets both near-term and sustainability measures, meaning it maintains a fiscally viable organization.

**Operational Performance:** GSIC met or approached SCSC operational standards in every year of the charter term. In the 2022-2023 school year, among other things, GSIC lost points due to GaDOE Cross-Functional monitoring. The school's operations score improved from 72 to 80 in FY24. The school received a few findings in its FY24 Monitoring Results and GaDOE reported that the school did not submit data collection reports on time or the DE-046 FY24 Actual Budget on time. Gernally, the school creates a safe learning environment, protects student and employees' rights, and executes an educational program that aligns with state requirements and charter contract expectations.





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## INTERNATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL OF ATLANTA

ATTENDANCE ZONE	STATEWIDE
GRADE LEVELS SERVED	K-8
TOTAL ENROLLMENT	846
YEAR OPENED	2015-2016

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**Table 1. Historical Track Record of Performance**

Section	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
ACA	NA	MEETS	MEETS	MEETS	EXCEEDS
FIN	95	95	95	100	MEETS
OPS	98	98	87	80	95

International Charter School of Atlanta is completing its second 5-year charter contract. The current contract term is from July 2020 to June 2025. The school was previously renewed in the 2019-2020 cycle.

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### PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

**School Model:** The mission of International Charter School of Atlanta (ICSAntlanta) is to prepare students for a successful future by promoting academic excellence through rigorous instruction that includes multilingualism, cultural awareness, respect, and tolerance of others.

**Academic Performance:** ICSAtlanta has met SCSC academic performance standards since it opened in the 2015-2016 school year, meaning it has provided students with a better educational option for its students than they would otherwise receive in the traditional district school for the past eight years. ICSAtlanta consistently outperforms the comparison schools' scores on content mastery in both grade bands served, elementary and middle.

**Financial Performance:** ICSAtlanta has consistently (for the past five years) met SCSC financial performance standards. The school meets both near-term and sustainability measures, meaning it maintains a fiscally viable organization.

**Operational Performance:** ICSAtlanta has met operational performance standards every year since opening in the 2015-2016 school year. In the 2022-2023 school year school lost points due to GaDOE Cross-Functional monitoring. The school's score improved from 80 to 95 in FY24. The school only received two findings in its FY24 monitoring results. The school employs appropriate governance policies, attends required training, creates a safe and healthy learning environment, protects student and employees' rights, and executes an educational program that aligns with state requirements and charter contract expectations.



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**SOUTHWEST GEORGIA STEM**  
**ATTENDANCE ZONE** | STATEWIDE  
**GRADE LEVELS SERVED** | PK-12  
**TOTAL ENROLLMENT** | 522  
**YEAR OPENED** | 2016-2017

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**Table 1. Historical Track Record of Performance**

Section	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
ACA	NA	Meets	Meets	Meets	Exceeds
FIN	95	100	95	85	Meets
OPS	88	87	87	92	81

Southwest Georgia STEM is completing its third and final year of its second charter contract. The current contract term is from July 2022 to June 2025. The school was previously renewed for a three-year term in the 2021-2022 cycle.

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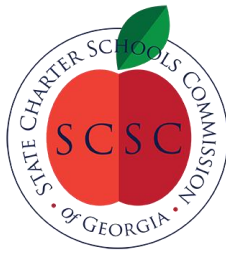
## PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

**School Model:** The mission of the Southwest Georgia STEM is to provide distinguished and integrated instruction in an environment that cultivates respect, is inclusive of all, and lays the foundation for excellence and life-long learning. The school offers an integrated education paired with STEM curriculum that focuses on the Engineering by Design Process.

**Academic Performance:** Southwest GA STEM has met SCSC academic performance standards for the entirety of its charter term, meaning it is providing a better educational option for its students than they would otherwise receive in the traditional district school. Southwest GA STEM consistently outperforms the comparison schools' scores on content mastery scores in all grade bands served: elementary, middle, and high.

**Financial Performance:** Southwest GA STEM has consistently met SCSC financial performance standards. The school meets both near-term and sustainability measures, meaning it maintains a fiscally viable organization.

**Operational Performance:** Southwest GA STEM has met SCSC operational standards every year of the charter term. The school received only three findings in its FY24 Monitoring Results. Overall, Southwest Georgia STEM employs appropriate governance policies, attends required training, creates a safe and healthy learning environment, protects student and employees' rights, and executes an educational program that aligns with state requirements and charter contract expectations.




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## SPRING CREEK CHARTER ACADEMY

<b>ATTENDANCE ZONE</b>	<b>DECATUR COUNTY, MILLER COUNTY, SEMINOLE COUNTY</b>
<b>GRADE LEVELS SERVED</b>	<b>K-11</b>
<b>TOTAL ENROLLMENT</b>	<b>474</b>
<b>YEAR OPENED</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>

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**Table 1. Historical Track Record of Performance**

Section	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
ACA	NA	APP	Meets	Meets	Meets
FIN	80	100	90	90	Meets
OPS	96	98	94	92	100

Spring Creek Charter Academy is completing its first 5-year charter contract. The current contract term is from July 2019 to June 2025.

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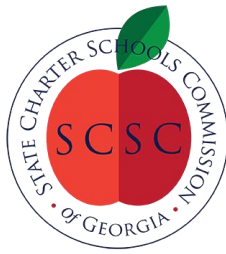
## PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

**School Model:** 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 learning environment that engages and challenges students, fosters creativity and instills integrity and leadership skills that inspire students to reach their full potential.

**Academic Performance:** Spring Creek Charter Academy (SCCA) approached SCSC academic performance standards in its first year and has met standards for the three most recent measured years, meaning that the school has provided students with a better educational option for its students than they would otherwise receive in the traditional district school.

**Financial Performance:** SCCA has consistently met SCSC financial performance standards. The school meets both near-term and sustainability measures, meaning it maintains a fiscally viable organization.

**Operational Performance:** SCCA has met SCSC operational standards every year of the charter term. In the 2022-2023 school year, SCCA lost points related to Federal Programs monitoring. The school received a perfect score for the 2023-2024 school year, which is very difficult to accomplish. Overall, SCCA employs appropriate governance policies, attends required training, creates a safe and healthy learning environment, protects student and employees' rights, and executes an educational program that aligns with state requirements and charter contract expectations.



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## YI HWANG ACADEMY OF LANGUAGE EXCELLENCE

ATTENDANCE ZONE	STATEWIDE
GRADE LEVELS SERVED	K-8
TOTAL ENROLLMENT	459
YEAR OPENED	2020-2021

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**Table 1. Historical Track Record of Performance**

Section	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
ACA	MEETS	MEETS	MEETS	EXCEEDS
FIN	85	95	100	APP
OPS	75	87	72	92

Yi Hwang Academy of Language Excellence is completing its first five-year charter contract, which runs from July 2020 to June 2025.

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### PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

**School Model:** The mission of the Yi Hwang Academy of Language Excellence (YHALE) is to provide a 21st century education to fully develop our children's bilingual and bi-literate potential, to broaden their awareness of other cultures of the world, and to prepare them for the competitive global marketplace.

**Academic Performance:** YHALE has met SCSC academic performance standards every year since it opened in the 2020-2021 school year, meaning it has provided students with a better educational option for its students than they would otherwise receive in the traditional district school.

**Financial Performance:** YHALE consistently meets both near-term and sustainability measures, meaning it maintains a fiscally viable organization. The school earned all 100 points on Financial Viability measures for the past two years. The school earned an Approaches Standards designation in FY24 because the Financial Management and Oversight measures moved from the Operations section to the Financial section of the CPF starting in the 2023-2024 school year, and lost points because it failed to obtain a surety bond.

**Operational Performance:** YHALE has met or approached operational performance standards every year. The school's operations score improved from approaching standards (72) to meeting standards (92) in FY24. The school received only one finding in its FY24 monitoring results. Overall, the school employs appropriate governance policies, attends required training, creates a safe and healthy learning environment, protects student and employees' rights, and executes an educational program that aligns with state requirements and charter contract expectations.



## State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

### Action Item – Staff Recommendation

#### Item Summary

Charter Renewal Recommendation for Atlanta Unbound Academy

#### Recommendation

SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the renewal application for Atlanta Unbound Academy by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute an abbreviated three-year charter contract for a K-8 school that will be automatically extended for two years upon written consent of the SCSC Executive Director when certain requirements are met.

#### Rationale

The SCSC recommends granting Atlanta Unbound Academy (AUA) a charter to operate the school for a three-year term beginning on July 1, 2025 and expiring on June 30, 2028; provided however that the term will be automatically extended for an additional two years until June 30, 2030 upon written consent of the SCSC Executive Director if:

- The school meets academic standards during the 2025-26 school year.
- The school meets or approaches financial standards for the 2025-26 school year (fiscal year 2026).

AUA is completing its first five-year charter contract. The school met academic and financial standards for the first three years of the charter term. The decline in scores for the 2023-24 school year correlate with AUA's facility transition, which has now been stabilized. By meeting the criteria noted above, the school can demonstrate that the issues created by the facility change no longer impact the school's quality or sustainability.

#### Strategic Plan Alignment

Objective: Increase charter school choice in communities with few or no options.



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## ATLANTA UNBOUND ACADEMY

ATTENDANCE ZONE	STATEWIDE
GRADE LEVELS SERVED	K-4; 6-8
TOTAL ENROLLMENT	199
YEAR OPENED	2020-2021

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### Historical Track Record of Performance

Section	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
ACA	Meets	Meets	Meets	Varied
FIN	100	95	85	APP
OPS	71	88	62	69

Atlanta Unbound Academy is completing its first five-year charter contract, which runs from July 2020 to June 2025.

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### PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

**School Model:** Through rigorous, culturally relevant teaching and a creative, nurturing environment, the Atlanta Unbound Academy empowers students who achieve intellectually, interpret the world critically, and dream beyond measure. The school offers a literacy-focused educational model with a specific emphasis on cultural relevancy.

**Academic Performance:** Atlanta Unbound Academy (AUA) met SCSC academic performance standards for the first three years of the charter term. In the 2022-2023 school year, the middle school grade band outperformed the comparison schools' scores on Content Mastery, Progress, and Grade Band scores. The 2023-2024 school year was the first year AUA served students in grade 3 (which is the first year of milestones testing). AUA performed below its comparison scores in the elementary grade band and the middle grades also dropped below its comparisons for each indicator except Progress, for which it is on par with the school-level comparison (approaches). This earned the school a Varied designation overall for the 2023-24 school year.

The decline in performance can be attributed to the instability of facilities and moving to a new location with a different student body population. During the renewal interview the school addressed its deficiencies and presented a targeted plan for improvement now that they are in their new facility. School leadership indicated the school is back on track and the academic CPF results for the 2024-2025 school



year should reflect adequate growth. As such, the SCSC wants to provide time for the school to complete the current school year and receive the related academic results.

**Financial Performance:** AUA met SCSC financial performance standards every year since opening until fiscal year (FY) 2024. In FY2024, the school's overall designation was Approaches. AUA's FY24 audit showed several negative trends including a decreased fund balance, a decrease in days cash on hand, increased total liabilities and an increased debt to assets ratio. Many of the negative trends stem from the school's purchase of a new facility. Additionally, AUA did not earn any points on the enrollment variance measure in 2023-2024 because it over projected its enrollment. Consequently, AUA's state funding allotment is decreasing by about \$1.4M due to its over projection. The school needs to be closely monitored to ensure it projects to end the school year with a positive cash balance and maintains steady student enrollment. When the school was put on probation during the 2023-2024 school year, it was also placed on high-risk financial monitoring and continues to be monitored in FY2025.

During the renewal interview the school explained it had secured one million dollars from the Charter Schools Development Corporation (CSDC) (the school also produced a letter of support from CSDC) and is in discussions with the Low-Income Investment Fund to secure an additional one million dollars in funding. All efforts demonstrate that the board is focused on closing its revenue shortfall.

**Operational Performance:** AUA saw a significant decline in its operational scores from FY23 to FY24. AUA lost points due to GaDOE Federal Programs Cross-Functional monitoring and the school's nutrition program received findings from the Georgia Department of Education School Nutrition Division. The school's operational score did improve in 2023-24.

Another area of concern relates to the school's facilities. In September 2023, the SCSC placed AUA on probation. The root issue of the probation stemmed from facility issues and related communications with the school community. The school opened the first semester of the 2024-2025 school year in modular units and, just as of January 2025, finally obtained its certificate of occupancy for its current facility and moved in. This operational instability has resulted in a decline in the school's enrollment, which raises concerns regarding the school's future financial viability. In its renewal interview, the school's governing board assured SCSC staff and commissioners that the school was back on track and that it was in its new and permanent facility. It also believes student enrollment for next year will increase now that the school is not operating solely from modular units. The new facility is located in a high-need area for quality school options.



## State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

### Action Item – Staff Recommendation

#### Item Summary

Charter Renewal Recommendation for Odyssey Charter School

#### Recommendation

SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the renewal application for Odyssey Charter School by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute an abbreviated three-year charter contract for a school that will be automatically extended for two years upon written consent of the SCSC Executive Director when certain requirements are met.

#### Rationale

SCSC recommend granting Odyssey Charter School (Odyssey) a charter to operate the school for a three-year term beginning on July 1, 2025 and expiring on June 30, 2028; provided however that the term will be automatically extended for an additional two years until June 30, 2030 upon written consent of the SCSC Executive Director if:

- The school meets academic standards for the 2025-26 school year.
- The school meets or approaches operational standards for the 2025-26 school year.

Odyssey is completing a five-year charter contract. The school met academic standards for the first three years of the current charter term and was designated as Approaches in the most recent year because it outperformed in the middle grade band and performed one point below in the elementary grade band.

Odyssey met or approached financial standards for a majority of the charter term and in the most recent year, demonstrating financial viability.

Historically, Odyssey has stable operational performance; however, in 2023 and 2024, the school had significant deficiencies related to SCSC internal monitoring and federal program compliance. By meeting the criteria noted above, the school can demonstrate that it is back on track to previous levels of performance.

#### Strategic Plan Alignment

Objective: Increase the number of academically superior state charter schools.





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## ODYSSEY CHARTER SCHOOL

<b>ATTENDANCE ZONE</b>	CARROLL, COWETA, DOUGLAS, FULTON, FAYETTE, HEARD, MERIWETHER, TROUP COUNTIES
<b>GRADE LEVELS SERVED</b>	K-8
<b>TOTAL ENROLLMENT</b>	359
<b>YEAR OPENED</b>	2014-2015

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**Table 1. Historical Track Record of Performance**

Section	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
ACA	Meets	Meets	Meets	App
FIN	100	95	95	App
OPS	89	81	65	66

Odyssey Charter School is completing its fifth year of its second charter contract. The current contract term is from July 2020 to June 2025. The school was previously renewed in the 2019-2020 cycle.

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## PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

**School Model:** Odyssey Charter aims to provide a challenging, high-quality education that creates an enthusiasm for learning through an innovative, hands-on curriculum while maintaining a focus on the needs of each student. The Charter School seeks to be a better choice for scholars' achievement through Ortan Gillingham Dyslexia Testing Battery and Reading Interventions, and adjusted classroom schedules to allow for Early Intervention Program Support (EIP) in all grades.

**Academic Performance:** Odyssey Charter School (Odyssey) met SCSC academic performance standards for the majority of its current charter term. The school typically outperforms the school comparison score in the middle school but not the elementary grade band. Generally, three-fourths of the Odyssey's students are in grades K-5, and one-fourth are in grades 6-8. In the 2022-2023 school year, standards were met by having higher grade band scores (CCRPI indexed score) than the school comparison in both elementary and middle-grade bands. Additionally, the elementary content mastery scores are trending up and Odyssey's score was the same as the school comparison score in 2023 and 2024. For the 2023-24 school year, Odyssey outperformed all indicators in middle grades and performed the same as the comparison on content mastery in the elementary grade band, earning a "Approaches" designation overall.



A review of Odyssey's Georgia Milestones data compared to the district from which they draw a majority of its students (Coweta County) reveal that while the elementary school tends to perform on par with the district for ELA and outperform in the middle grades, Odyssey underperformed in Math for both grade bands in 2023-24. During the renewal interview SCSC staff and commissioners emphasized the school's need to improve Math performance. The school indicated it is working to improve teacher professional development in that area. An additional year or two of data should reveal whether the school's academic performance is back to previous levels.

**Financial Performance:** Odyssey has consistently met SCSC financial performance standards until the 2023-2024 school year. Overall, the school meets both near-term and sustainability measures, meaning it maintains a fiscally viable organization. The school earned an approaches standards designation due to a loss of points in the oversight section that was previously part of the operations section. Specifically, it failed to comply with federal financial reporting obligations and LUA manual requirements.

**Operational Performance:** Odyssey met operational standards in the first two years of the charter term but failed to meet standards in the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school year. The school received more findings in its FY23 Monitoring Results than it did in FY22 for a variety of different reasons, and was unable to win back partial CPF points for most findings because it did not submit a corrective action plan that demonstrated reasonable efforts to remediate the findings. Odyssey received several similar findings between FY23 and FY24 monitoring results. However, in FY24 the school did make reasonable adjustments and was able to earn back partial points. Yet, Odyssey was also monitored by GaDOE Federal Programs in FY24 and received several findings in its Cross-Functional Monitoring report which contributed to the school not meeting standards for a second year. On a positive note, preliminary operations data for the 2024-2025 school year reveal significantly less findings than in the prior two years, suggesting the school is back on track to operational compliance. An additional year or two of the data should reveal whether the school's operational sustainability is back to previous levels.



## State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

### Action Item – Staff Recommendation

#### Item Summary

Charter Renewal Recommendation for Georgia Fugees Academy Charter School

#### Recommendation

SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the renewal application for Georgia Fugees Academy Charter School by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute an abbreviated three-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.

#### Rationale

Georgia Fugees Academy Charter School (GFACS) is completing its first five-year charter contract. GFACS met or approached academic standards by outperforming or performing on par with the schools its students would otherwise attend in two years of the charter term. In the most recent year for which data are available, GFACS outperformed the comparison score in the middle-grade band but did not outperform in the high-school grade band. However, 60 percent of student enrollment is in grades 6-8; as such, the majority of students are receiving a better educational option.

GFACS met or approached financial standards for a majority of the charter term and in the most recent year, demonstrating financial viability.

Generally, the school has stable operational performance; however, in 2023 and 2024, the school had significant deficiencies related specifically to federal program compliance. The board and school leadership are implementing corrective actions to remedy previously identified issues and have processes in place to improve the school's operational standing on the CPF.

#### Strategic Plan Alignment

Objective: Increase charter school choice in communities with few or no options.



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## GEORGIA FUGEES ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

ATTENDANCE ZONE	STATEWIDE
GRADE LEVELS SERVED	6-12
TOTAL ENROLLMENT	165
YEAR OPENED	2020-2021

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### Historical Track Record of Performance

Section	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
ACA	APP	DNM	MEETS	VARIED
FIN	100	80	45	APP
OPS	80	80	58	63

Georgia Fugees Academy Charter School is completing its first 5-year charter contract. The current contract term is from July 2020 to June 2025.

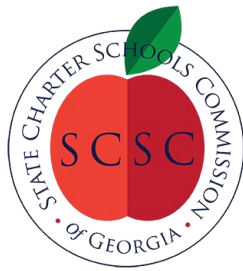
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### PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

**School Model:** Georgia Fugees Academy Charter School (GFACS) 's mission is to level the playing field for refugee and new American students by empowering them to become independent thinkers, high-achieving scholars, and productive citizens. The school specifically focuses on English Language immersion and shall provide wrap-around services to its student body.

**Academic Performance:** GFACS was designated as an approaching standard in its first year of operations, it showed adequate growth in the high school grade band but not the middle school. The school did not meet standards in either grade band in 2021-2022. However, in the 2022-2023 school year, GFACS outperformed its comparison school and district on the whole school score for the CCRPI Progress measure and Value-Added Model, indicating that students are progressing academically at a faster rate than they would at their traditional district school. In the 2023-2024 school year, GFACS met standards in the middle-grade band but underperformed in the high-school grade band relative to its comparisons. About 60 percent of the school enrollment is in the middle school grade band, and 40 percent is in the high school grade band, suggesting that a majority of students were receiving a better educational option.

During the renewal interview, the school stated that the dip in academic performance is due to facility issues it encountered in the fall of 2023. However, the facilities are now rectified. Based on interim assessment data submitted by the school, performance is up across all grades and subjects compared to the same time last year (Fall 2023 v. Fall 2024). SCSC staff and commissioners highlighted teacher and school leadership turnover as a concern and emphasized the need for stable leadership moving forward.



The school has hired a new principal for the 2024-2025 school year and stated that a majority of teachers plan to return to the school next school year. The SCSC is awarding a three-year term to allow the school time to increase academic performance back to the levels previously demonstrated.

**Financial Performance:** GFACS met SCSC financial performance standards for its first two operating years. However, it declined significantly in FY23 and did not meet standards. As such, it was placed on high-risk financial monitoring for FY2025. GFACS improved its performance in FY2024 and earned an Approaches Standards designation. The FY2024 audit for GFACS included positive upward trends. It met standards in financial viability but not in oversight and management. Financial Management and Oversight measures were removed from the Operations section and added to the financial section of the CPF starting in the 2023-2024 school year. The school needs to keep making improvements and continue the processes it has implemented to make them.

It is important for the school to closely monitor its FY2025 budget so that it completes the year with a positive cash balance. In addition, the school needs to build its reserves to allow it to respond to significant, unplanned, and unavoidable costs or revenue losses. The SCSC will continue to monitor the school's financial viability through high-risk financial monitoring.

**Operational Performance:** GFACS met SCSC operational standards for the first two years (FY21 & FY22) but did not meet standards in the last two years (FY23 & FY24). However, the school's score improved from 58 to 63 in FY24. GaDOE Federal Programs monitoring was a major contributing factor in the school's score dropping in FY23. Additionally, the school has consistently lost points across all years in Data Reporting for not submitting GaDOE and SCSC data reports on time.

During the renewal interview, SCSC staff and commissioners highlighted the operational areas of concern. A new superintendent came on board in the middle of the last school year (23-24) and reassured the SCSC that he was committed to fixing the operational issues long-term. Additionally, the school's partner, Fugees Family Foundation, and governing board are working to establish systems that would support continued operations and legal compliance during staff transition. The school is being monitored by GaDOE federal programs again in FY25 and worked with GaDOE to ensure the federal programs compliance concerns from FY24 are remediated this fiscal year.



## State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

### Action Item – Staff Recommendation

#### Item Summary

Charter Renewal Recommendation for Destinations Career Academy of Georgia

#### Recommendation

SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC Board of Commissioners non-renew the charter contract for Destinations Career Academy of Georgia. If the recommendation of non-renewal is approved, Destinations Career Academy will cease operation as a state charter school effective June 30, 2025.

#### Rationale

Destinations Career Academy is completing a three-year charter contract. The school did not meet the academic or operational eligibility criteria for renewal. It did not outperform the schools its students would otherwise attend for a majority of the charter term, and it failed to demonstrate operational compliance in both years for which data are available. Although the school met financial standards, the school's renewal interview raised significant concerns regarding the board's ability to prioritize the school's academic outcomes and operational performance in its financial decision-making.

#### Strategic Plan Alignment

Objective: Increase the number of academically superior state charter schools.



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## DESTINATIONS CAREER ACADEMY OF GEORGIA

ATTENDANCE ZONE	STATEWIDE
GRADE LEVELS SERVED	6-10
TOTAL ENROLLMENT	587
YEAR OPENED	2022-2023

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### Historical Track Record of Performance

Section	2022-2023	2023-2024
ACA	DNM	VARIED
FIN	95	MEETS
OPS	69	60

Destinations Career Academy of Georgia was initially only approved for a three-year charter term. As such, the school is completing its third year of its first charter contract, which runs from July 2021 to June 2025.

### PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

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**School Model:** The mission of the Destinations Career Academy of Georgia is to empower all students to contribute positively to the communities in which they live by preparing them for high-demand careers that are relevant in Georgia. The school offers a virtual program designed to give students a deep experience and exploration in a career pathway that culminates with industry-recognized credentials.

**Academic Performance:** In its first year of operation (2022-2023) Destinations Career Academy of Georgia (DCAG) underperformed its comparisons' scores in Content Mastery and Progress by over 20 points in the middle grades. In the 2023-24 school year, the middle school continued to perform well below its comparison schools (20 pts below for Content Mastery, 17 for Progress). The high school (grade 9 only) scored 27 points below its comparison school for Content Mastery, but it outperformed its comparison in Progress by 3 points, which led to its overall "Varied" designation. However, only 25% of the school's total population is enrolled in the high school grades, and 75% are in grades 6-8. As such, an overwhelming majority of students are not receiving a better educational option. Additionally, during the renewal interview, the school's governing board could not articulate corrective actions being implemented to close the achievement gap, suggesting a lack of capacity to appropriately oversee the academic program and school leader.



**Financial Performance:** DCAG has met SCSC financial performance standards in the for the two fiscal years for which data are available. The school meets both near-term and sustainability measures, meaning it maintains a fiscally viable organization.

**Operational Performance:** DCAG failed to meet operational standards in its first two years of operations, and its score decreased from 69 to 60 in FY24. In both years, the school received several of the same findings in its FY23 & FY24 Monitoring Results, indicating a lack of capacity or urgency to correct course. The areas of issue include annual budget approval, code of conduct, admissions application, enrollment procedures, title ix coordinator contact information, infectious disease policy, child abuse policy, Georgia Professional Standards Commission's mandated process, GaDOE Federal Programs, Cross Functional Monitoring, and governance training legal requirements. The ESP Agreement proposes several increases in fees for the next charter term. When asked in the renewal interview how the board justified paying increased fees considering the failure to meet academic and operational standards, two areas in which the ESP plays a major role, the school's governing board could not provide a reasonable response beyond suggesting it accounts for inflation. The response demonstrates a lack of capacity by the board to appropriately manage funds and oversee contracted services.