



Staff Recommendations for the 2022 Renewal Cycle

State [Charter School Application Materials](#) for
the 2022 Renewal Cycle

SCSC [Comprehensive Performance Framework
and Renewal Standards](#)



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Staff Recommendation

February 23, 2022

School:	Atlanta Heights Charter School
Attendance Zone:	Atlanta Public Schools
Grade Levels:	K-8
Staff Recommendation:	SCSC staff recommends the petition for Atlanta Heights Charter School be APPROVED by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a 5- year renewal contract for the operation of a state charter school.

Rationale:

Atlanta Heights Charter School (Atlanta Heights) is a tenured state charter school completing an abbreviated 3- year charter contract with a 1- year COVID extension. Atlanta Heights met the eligibility requirements for a standard 5- year renewal by meeting academic, financial, and operational standards as established by the Comprehensive Performance Framework for a majority of the charter term. The school met academic standards in all years of the current charter term for which data are available.

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



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Staff Recommendation

February 23, 2022

School:	Brookhaven Innovation Academy
Attendance Zone:	Statewide
Grade Levels:	K-8
Staff Recommendation:	SCSC staff recommends that the petition for Brookhaven Innovation Academy be APPROVED by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a 5- year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.

Rationale:

Brookhaven Innovation Academy (BIA) is a new state charter school completing a 5- year charter contract with a 1- year COVID extension. BIA met the eligibility requirements for a standard 5- year renewal by outperforming the attendance zone academically for a majority of the charter term and meeting financial and operational standards as established by the Comprehensive Performance Framework in the most recent year of the current charter term.

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



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Staff Recommendation

February 23, 2022

School:	Georgia Connections Academy
Attendance Zone:	Statewide
Grade Levels:	5-12
Staff Recommendation:	SCSC staff recommends that the petition for Georgia Connections Academy be APPROVED by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a 5- year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school to serve an expanded grade range of K-12.

Rationale:

Georgia Connections Academy is a tenured state charter school completing an abbreviated 3- year charter contract with a 1- year COVID extension. Georgia Connections Academy met the eligibility requirements for a standard 5- year renewal by meeting academic, financial, and operational standards as established by the Comprehensive Performance Framework for a majority of the charter term.

Georgia Connections Academy currently is approved serve grades 4-12 as outlined in its current charter contract and requested to expand to include grades K-3, upon renewal. The school presented a strong grade expansion plan that will ensure a high-quality educational program for students in all grades.

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



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Staff Recommendation

February 23, 2022

School:	Statesboro STEAM Academy
Attendance Zone:	Statesboro/Bulloch County
Grade Levels:	6-12
Staff Recommendation:	SCSC staff recommends that the petition for Statesboro STEAM Academy be APPROVED by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a 5- year renewal charter contract for the operation of a state charter school to serve an expanded grade range of K-12.

Rationale:

Statesboro STEAM Academy (Statesboro STEAM) is a tenured state charter school completing a 5- year charter contract with a 1- year COVID extension. Statesboro STEAM met academic standards in the two most recent years and met financial and operational standards for a majority of the charter term. Statesboro STEAM consistently outperforms the schools from which it enrolls students in the high school grade band and outperforms or performs on par with the middle schools from which its 6-8 students are zoned to attend.

Statesboro STEAM currently is approved serve grades 6-12 as outlined in its current charter contract and requested to expand to include grades K-5, upon renewal. The school presented a strong grade expansion plan that will ensure a high-quality educational program for students in all grades.

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



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Staff Recommendation

February 23, 2022

School:	Ivy Preparatory Academy at Kirkwood
Attendance Zone:	Atlanta Public Schools, Clayton, Dekalb and South Fulton County Schools
Grade Levels:	K-8
Staff Recommendation:	SCSC staff recommends that the petition for Ivy Preparatory Academy be APPROVED by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a 3- year charter contract 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 Ivy Prep a charter to operate the School for a three-year term beginning on July 1, 2022 and expiring on June 30, 2025; provided however that the term will be automatically extended 2 years until June 30, 2027 upon written consent of the SCSC Executive Director if:

- Petitioner enters into a new or restructured finance agreement for its facility no later than January 1, 2024;
- Per the terms of the agreement, the total debt service for the facility shall not exceed \$1,050,000 annually; and
- Per the terms of the agreement, the annual total revenue and total debt service shall forecast and achieve a Debt to Income Ratio (DTI) of 15% or less.

Ivy Preparatory Academy (Ivy Prep) is a tenured state charter school completing an abbreviated 3- year charter contract with a 1- year COVID extension. Ivy Prep met academic and operational standards as established by the Comprehensive Performance Framework in all years of the current charter term but failed to meet financial standards in any year. Ivy Prep's financial challenges are based on the terms of the School's facility bond, which predate the Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) and recent improvements in charter school facility financing options.



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Staff Recommendation

February 23, 2022

School:	Southwest Georgia STEM Charter School
Attendance Zone:	Statewide
Grade Levels:	K-10
Staff Recommendation:	SCSC staff recommends that the petition for Southwest Georgia STEM Charter School be APPROVED by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute an abbreviated 3- year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school to serve an expanded grade range of K-12.

Rationale:

Southwest Georgia STEM Charter School (SGSC) is a new state charter school completing a 5- year charter contract with a 1- year COVID extension. SGSC met the eligibility requirements for an abbreviated 3- year charter contract by meeting the academic, financial, and operational standards as established by the Comprehensive Performance Framework in the most recent year of the charter term.

SGSC currently is approved serve grades K-10 as outlined in its current charter contract and requested to expand to include grades 11-12, upon renewal. The school presented a strong grade expansion plan that will ensure a high-quality educational program for students in all grades.

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



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Staff Recommendation

February 23, 2022

School:	Cirrus Academy Charter School
Attendance Zone:	Statewide
Grade Levels:	K-8
Staff Recommendation:	SCSC staff recommends that the petition for Cirrus Academy be APPROVED by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a 2-year charter contract to include stipulations for the operation of a state charter school.

Rationale:

Cirrus Academy Charter School (Cirrus) is a new state charter school completing its first 5-year charter term with a 1-year COVID extension. Cirrus met standards on the Finance portion of the CPF in the most recent year of its charter term and met or approached standards on the Operational portion of the CPF in four of the five years of its charter term. Cirrus did not meet academic standards in any of the four years of its charter term for which academic data are available. However, in the last year for which traditional academic data are available (2018-19), Cirrus outperformed the local schools from which it enrolls students in the middle grade band.

SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC approve an abbreviated two-year charter term, subject to the School's agreement to produce a corrective action plan that addresses its academic deficiencies within thirty (30) days of SCSC's approval of an abbreviated renewal term. The additional two years will allow the school time to demonstrate that recently implemented changes will result in the requisite academic gains. The SCSC Executive Director may approve the corrective action plan submitted or impose additional terms to remedy the academic deficiencies addressed therein. The School will be required to implement the corrective action plan. During the abbreviated charter term, the SCSC may require the School to file interim reports and produce other data and information on any matter relevant to the School's academic deficiencies. The School must submit the data at the time and in the form prescribed by SCSC staff. The requirements of the abbreviated charter term will be integrated into the School's renewal contract.