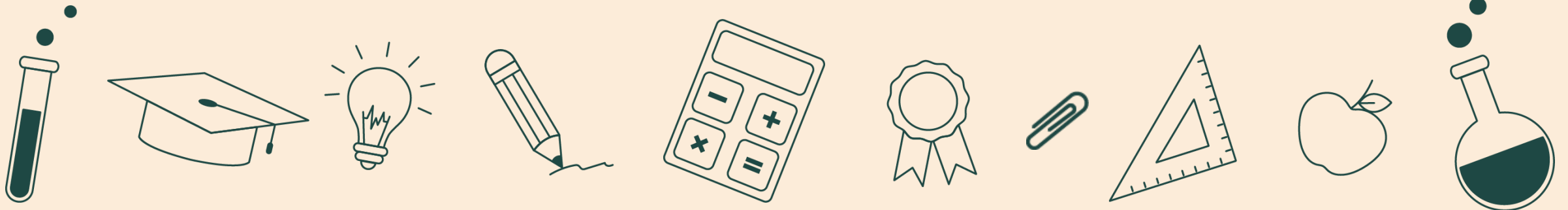


Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing



Code of Principles and Standards for Charter School Authorizers



- In 2017-2018 legislative session the Governor signed HB430 into law
- § **20-2-2063.3**. Code of principles and standards for charter school authorizers
 - Georgia Code Title 20 – Education, Chapter 2 - Elementary and Secondary Education, Article 31 - Charter Schools Act of 1998
- Intent: Encourage quality charter school authorizing practices

§ 20-2-2063.3 Part A

The State Board of Education (SBOE) and the State Charter Schools Commission (SCSC) shall jointly establish a code of principles and standards of charter school authorizing to guide local boards of education, the state board, and the SCSC in meeting high-quality authorizing practices. The principles and standards shall include:



1. Maintaining high standards for approving charter petitions;
2. Establishing high academic, financial, and operational performance standards for charter schools;
3. Annually monitoring, evaluating, and reporting charter school progress in meeting academic, financial, and operational performance standards,
4. Upholding charter school autonomy in school governance, instructional program implementation, personnel, and budgeting;
5. Protecting students and holding charter schools accountable for their obligations to all students; and
6. Protecting the public interest and holding charter schools accountable for their obligations of governance, management, and oversight of public funds.

§ 20-2-2063.3 Part B, C & D



1. The SBOE shall provide for the annual review of local boards of education by an independent party (that has demonstrated history of evaluating authorizer performance) for adherence to the principles and standards of charter school authorizing practices.
 2. A charter school authorized by a local board of education that fails to meet the principles and standards of charter school authorizing on its annual evaluation for two consecutive years may petition to transfer its charter authorization to the SCSC.
 3. In its discretion, the SCSC may approve a charter school petitioning for authorization pursuant to paragraph (2)
- C. The SCSC shall ensure that its adherence to the principles and standards of charter school authorizing practices is annually reviewed by an independent body that has a demonstrated history of evaluating charter school authorizers for quality authorizing practices.
- D. The SBOE shall provide for or approve training for its staff and local board of education members on the principles and standards of charter school authorizers.

Draft Standards Overview



The SCSC and GaDOE drafted a set of principles designed to evaluate Georgia charter authorizing bodies on authorizing practices. The standards are informed by both the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) [Principles & Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing](#) and [Georgia laws](#) and rules.)

Five (5) Core Principles:

1. Authorizer Commitment & Capacity
2. The Petition Process
3. Performance Contracting
4. Oversight and Evaluation
5. Renewal and Termination

Authorizer Commitment & Capacity



Standard 1. Human Resources. The authorizer dedicates appropriate personnel to carry out its authorizing obligations.

Authorizer Commitment & Capacity



Standard 2. Financial Resources. The authorizer allocates the required financial resources to support charter schools and provides transparency on the availability and allocation of charter school funding, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2068.1 and O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2089

The Petition Process



Standard 3. Petition Application. The authorizer publishes a written petition application in accordance with state requirements and timelines. The authorizer provides reasonable and timely technical assistance and is responsive to petitioner questions.



The Petition Process



Standard 4. Petition Review. The authorizer conducts petition review in accordance with state requirements. The petition review includes an evaluation team of no fewer than three individuals with diverse expertise, with at least one of the individuals having charter school experience, and the review is free of conflicts of interest.

The Petition Process



Standard 5. Petition Decisions. The authorizer grants charters only to petitioners that have demonstrated competence and capacity to succeed in all aspects of the school, consistent with the expectations established in the performance contract. The authorizer makes petition decisions that are free from conflicts of interest.

Performance Contracting



Standard 6. Pre-Opening Period. The authorizer establishes clear expectations for the pre-opening period including, but not limited to, expectations regarding facilities, student enrollment and board development.

Performance Contracting



Standard 7. Performance Standards. The authorizer, through the performance contract, establishes the academic, financial, and operational performance standards under which schools will be evaluated, using objective and verifiable measures of student achievement and growth as the primary measure of school quality.

Performance Contracting



Standard 8. Contract Terms. The authorizer executes an initial contract for a term of five years that clearly outlines the rights and responsibilities of the school and the authorizer.

Performance Contracting



Standard 9. Authorizer Obligations. The contract articulates the required and in-kind services that the authorizer will provide to the school and equitable per-pupil funding. The authorizer follows all authorizing obligations outlined in law and State Board Rule.

Oversight and Evaluation



Standard 10. Compliance Monitoring. The authorizer defines, communicates and effectively implements the processes, methods, and timing of collecting and reporting school performance and compliance information. The authorizer conducts school visits as appropriate and necessary, and annually publishes school performance data.

Oversight and Evaluation



Standard 11. Intervention. The authorizer gives schools evidence-based, and timely notice of contract violations or performance deficiencies, allows schools reasonable time and opportunity for remediation.

Oversight and Evaluation



Standard 12. Upholds Charter School Autonomy. The authorizer upholds charter school autonomy in school governance, instructional program implementation, personnel, and budgeting by refraining from directing or participating in educational decisions or choices that are appropriately within a school's purview under the charter law or contract.

Renewal and Termination



Standard 13. Renewal Process. The authorizer clearly communicates to schools the criteria for charter termination, renewal, and non-renewal that are consistent with the terms of the charter contract. The renewal process includes a written application and an opportunity for an interview.

Renewal and Termination



Standard 14. Renewal Decisions. The authorizer bases renewal decisions on a thorough analyses of a comprehensive body of evidence as defined in the charter contract, with objective and verifiable measures of student achievement and growth as the primary measure of school quality. The authorizer ensures the renewal decision-making processes are free of conflicts of interest. The authorizer promptly communicates renewal decisions to the school community and public within a timeframe that allows parents and students to exercise choices for the coming school year.

Renewal and Termination



Standard 15. Closure/Termination. In the event of school closure, either at the conclusion of the charter term or mid-term, the authorizer oversees and ensures the school governing board and leadership carry out a detailed closure protocol that includes the provisions outlined in the charter contract, such as ensuring timely notification to parents; orderly transition of students and student records to new schools; and disposition of school funds, property, and assets in accordance with law, rule and contract terms.

Tentative Timeline



Summer 2021: Finalize principles and standards

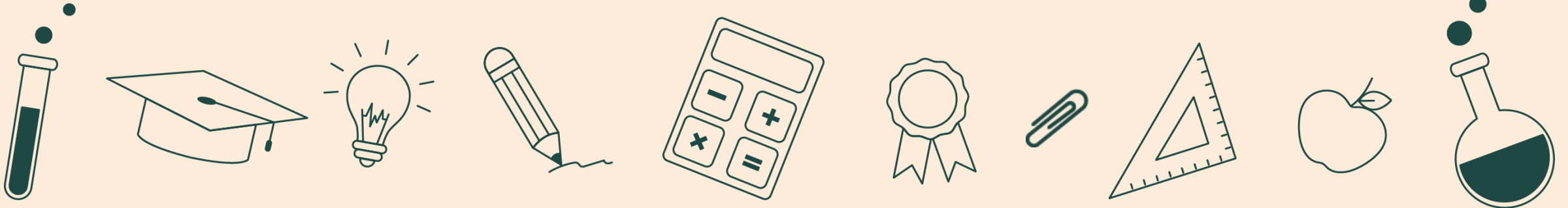
Fall 2021: Present principles and standards to State Board of Education for adoption

Spring 2022:

- Finalize evaluation process;
- State Board of Education secures independent party for annual review of local boards of education for adherence to the adopted principles and standards; and
- GaDOE secures/provides training for local authorizers on adopted principles and standards



Questions?





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